

A
BOX OF NAILS
FOR
Busy Christian Workers

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FOR

Busy Christian Workers

BIBLE READINGS & OUTLINE ADDRESSES

BY

C. EDWARDS

THE SOLDIERS' HOME, WINCHESTER

Author of "Tin Tacks for Tiny Folks," etc.

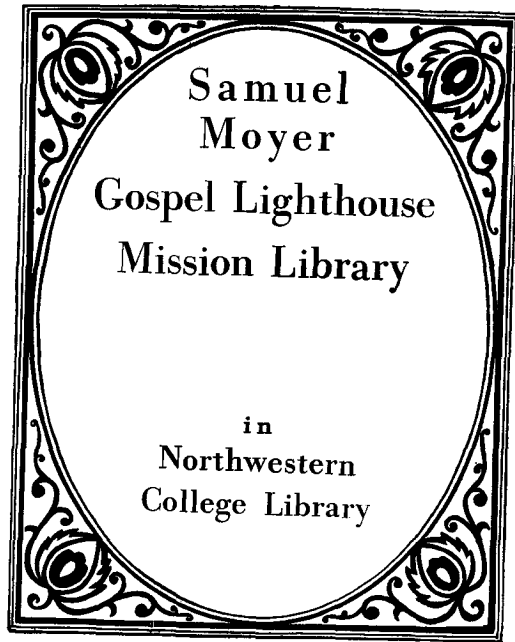
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PREFACE

It is with great joy that I preface this valuable volume with a few words, although I feel none are needed.

For years, those privileged to listen (whether regularly or only occasionally) to the marvellous scriptural addresses of Mr. Edwards, have been wont to sigh, and to say, "If only we could have taken notes!" Now, at last, a few notes do appear—and in print. And though they give no conception of the power and clothing of the actual addresses when delivered, yet even these tiny "nails" must surely prove a blessing to the busy worker, and a help to him and to her, in the building of many a sermon and address.

I can conceive of no kind of skeleton notes more calculated to incite to actual Bible *Study* than these which are gathered together here; and I pray that the book may sell by thousands—will be the means of opening eyes (hitherto blind) to the fulness of God's own Word; that it may be

used to the conversion (directly and indirectly) of many precious souls, and that the Author may be long spared, and so encouraged by this venture, that he may bring out of his vast treasury, of similar notes, more volumes of this kind.

Yours, in Christ,
SYDNEY WATSON.

DULWICH HOUSE,
N. MALVERN.

THE AUTHOR'S SHORT WORD FOR THE
SECOND EDITION.

It is a matter of gratitude and hope, both to the Author and the Publisher, that the First Edition of "A Box of Nails" has sold so quickly, and that a Second Edition is so soon required. It proves that the "nails" have been appreciated, that workers have been helped, and that the real business of our loving Master is going forward. We have received so many kind letters of thanks for the great help afforded to numbers of Preachers, Pastors and Teachers, that we are encouraged to continue passing on the "nails" to other over-taxed workers in the great harvest-field. Our correspondents write most warmly in praise of the special quality, point and fitness of these "nails" to help active workers.

There are several things which have led to the great success of the volume: the unique value of the book itself for every feature of Christian service; the kindly letters, reviews and recommendations of the "nails" from so many Editors, Ministers and leading Christian Teachers, and the energy, tact and push of the worthy Publisher: for all of which the author is very grateful, and in the spirit of thanksgiving, faith and prayer hastens to meet the call of hundreds of Workers, and send forth another Edition of the much-needed help—"A Box of Nails for Busy Christian Workers."

THE SOLDIERS' HOME,
WINCHESTER, April 2nd, 1897.

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Ye workers with the Carpenter, within this box behold
The nails ye need: sharp-pointed nails, and nails with heads of
gold;
The truth their point—their golden heads, the brightness of His
grace,
Who is the one true shining Nail fixed in God's holy place.
Would ye hang pictures on the walls of human heart and mind?
Take hence your choice, God-guided, ye the needed nails will
find.
Would ye secure some cedar beam, or train some vagrant vine,
Or fasten down some secret thing, some chest of wealth divine?
Would ye slay Sisera again, the modern foe of truth?
For lowly work, or highest dome; for manhood, age, or youth,
The nails are here—and blood-stained nails, that tell the old, old
tale.
Go, work with these; drive these well home; such work shall
never fail.

WILLIAM LUFF.

A BOX OF NAILS FOR BUSY WORKERS

INTRODUCTION

THESE Nails for Busy Workers are intended for those who are actively engaged in the Lord's vineyard, but who have little or no time for preparation. They love the Master. They long to serve Him, and are really willing to work, but they tell us often that, through the rush and bustle of earthly things, they have no facilities for getting ready for the more active service for their Lord. So with the object of assisting these over-strained workers these Notes and Bible Readings have been arranged and presented in this permanent form, in the hope and with the prayer that they may prove a really suggestive help to many a weary brain.

They are Notes of Bible Readings, Gospel Addresses, and Special Words to Workers that have been given from time to time at the "Soldiers' Home," Winchester, by the writer, through a period of twelve years' happy service for the Lord Jesus, amongst a sympathetic, earnest, active people.

The privilege and joy of delivering these addresses

have been great, and, thank God, the blessings to those who have heard them have been great also, and we see, by the bright testimony of many, that there is a great deal of real abiding fruit to the glory of God. Therefore it is thought wise to collect and preserve these Notes and pass them on to other workers.

Christian work, soul-saving service, and real active testimony for God is a vast responsibility in these dark days of worldliness and error, and in order to do it efficiently and successfully we need the grace and power of the Holy Spirit to keep us in touch with the living Christ, on the old lines of Truth and in loving sympathy with perishing men and women.

In the midst of the excitements of the age, false teaching and the use of questionable methods to attract and amuse and influence and lead the people into all kinds of error and darkness, numbers of godly persons are distressed and perplexed, and are at their wits' end to know what to do to sustain the Lord's work on the old lines of the Gospel.

These Notes, therefore, may be useful as a guide and help to many who wish to keep loyal and true to Christ and His Word, and who still believe the grand old Gospel is the power of God to save souls.

They are only brief Notes or Ordinary Nails, but the smallest thing, if used by the Lord, may become great in power and blessing; and if these become so used and blessed, to God be all the glory.

The title of the book may strike some as being a little curious; but something suggestive, simple, and useful was required, and "A Box of Nails" is all this.

Nails are very common things, but they are sharp and short, bright and useful, safe and sure, so are Bible

truths, and the practical qualities of the Nails will illustrate the spiritual force of the Word of Life.

Good Nails clench and hold and make our work secure, so there are words of love that stick and hold and fix our hearts to God for eternal life when they have been driven home by the Hammer of the Word, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the Lord make these Bible-notes Nails fastened in a sure place by His Almighty Power.

It is with much prayer they have been collected, and are now sent forth with the hope that they may really prove "A Box of useful Nails" and "Notes" to many busy workers.

C. EDWARDS.

SOLDIERS' HOME,
WINCHESTER,
May, 1896.

CHAPTER I

ASSORTED NAILS FOR BUSY WORKERS

1. Special Nails for Life and Service.

ALMOST everything in Nature and Art has been used by the Holy Spirit to explain and illustrate spiritual truth, from a pin to a pyramid, and every feature of the common business of every-day life is full of suggestive lessons of Divine things. The fisherman's net, the husbandman's seed, and the workman's tools, may guide the thoughtful mind to higher things, and even the ordinary small hammer and nails are not beneath the Holy Spirit's notice as symbols of deep spiritual teaching. So we see in the Bible there are *pointed* Nails of Truth, *bright* Nails of Love, *sure* Nails of Blessing, and *golden* Nails of Service, all pointing us to spiritual life and service, and when these different Nails are driven home and clenched by the Hammer of the Word, blessing is sure to be the result.

We will select four samples of these Nails for a few Notes as a Bible Reading.

1. The Sharp Nail of Truth. "The words of the wise," etc. *Eccles. xii. 11.*

This means the Word of God made quick and powerful, and fastened by the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of men. With the Spirit's power the Word is effectual.

It is fastened upon the Conscience; that brings conviction of sin. *Acts ii. 37.*

It is fastened upon the Mind; that lets in the light.

Ps. cxix. 130.

It is fastened upon the Memory; that leads to God and salvation.

1 Cor. xv. 2.

It is fastened upon the Heart; that brings life for evermore.

Rom. x. 10.

2. The Bright Nail of Love. "As a Nail in a sure place."

Isa. xxii. 23.

Eliakim was treasurer of the king's household, he held a responsible position, and everything depended upon him. He was a type of Christ, in character, in office, in position and in power.

In His Character as Servant. Jesus was the Servant of God, all grace given unto Him. *John iii. 34.*

In His Authority as Steward. Christ has all the keys of knowledge and blessing in His hand.

In His Power as Saviour. Everything hangs upon Christ: the Father's glory, the salvation of souls, and all the vessels for service.

Matt. ii. 27; xxviii. 18; John v. 20.

3. The Sure Nail of Blessing. "A Nail in His holy place."

Ezra ix. 8.

Fulness of blessing hangs upon this Nail; Grace upon Grace, and Glory upon Glory. There is

Securing grace, a Place, a Portion, a Permanence.

Eph. i. 3; Lam. iii. 24; John viii. 28; Rev. iii. 11, 12.

Enlightening grace: "That God may enlighten our eyes to see His Goodness, Will, and Ways.

Reviving grace: "A little reviving," the rekindling of Faith, Love, Zeal, and Hope.

Timely grace: A little space to show our Gratitude, give our Testimony, and do our Work; the opportunity will soon be gone.

4. The Golden Nails of Service. Golden Nails for the Lord's House. *2 Chron.* iii. 9.

It is wonderful that the Holy Spirit should notice such small things as Nails; but He does. See what kind of Nails the Lord is pleased to use in His service.

SMALL Nails: none are too small for the great Master. *1 Cor.* i. 37.

GOOD Nails: none are good in themselves; but Christ makes us good for service. *Eph.* i. 10.

BRIGHT Nails: the way to keep bright is to be used. *John* v. 35.

GOLDEN Nails: these are for special work. *2 Chron.* iii. 9.

2. Nail-Marks.

1. The Nail-Mark of Sin. DEATH. *Judg.* v. 26.

2. The Nail-Mark of Power. CHRIST. *Zech.* x. 4.

3. The Nail-Mark of Love. SUFFERING. *John* xx. 25, 27.

4. The Nail-Mark of Blessing. SALVATION. *Col.* ii. 14.

5. The Nail-Mark of Service. OBEDIENCE. *1 Chron.* xxii. 3

3. Life more Abundantly.

John x. 10.

LIFE in its source, Christ; Life in its blessing, Salvation; and Life in its fruit, Glory to God.

1. Life in Christ for all.—All Life is in Jesus.

His Perfect Life given for us on the Cross. *v.* 11.

His Risen Life imparted to us by the Holy Ghost. *vv.* 15 and 18.

His Holy Life set before us as our pattern. *v.* 27.

His Eternal Life presented to us as a gift. *v.* 28.

2. Life in the Souls of all who believe. "He that hath the Son hath Life." *1 John* v. 12.

LIFE in its possession, by BELIEVING. *1 John* v. 12.

LIFE in its privilege, by KNOWING. *1 John* v. 13.

LIFE in its power, by LIVING. *1 John* v. 18.

3. Life abounding. The manifestation of Life. Four things prove the tree to be alive—growth, leaves, blossom, fruit.

LIFE in the head, LIGHT. *John* xvii. 3.

LIFE in the heart, LOVE. *1 John* iii. 14.

LIFE in the hands, LABOUR. *Phil.* iii. 10.

LIFE in the feet, LIBERTY. *Gal.* ii. 20.

LIFE in the pocket, LIBERALITY. *1 John* iii. 17.

LIFE in the glory, LASTING JOY. *1 John* iii. 2;

Col. iii. 4.

4. A Useful Motto-Card.

LIFE from CHRIST, SALVATION. *John* iii. 16.

LIFE in CHRIST, UNION. *Gal.* ii. 20.

LIFE like CHRIST, HOLINESS. *2 Cor.* iii. 18.

LIFE for CHRIST, SERVICE. *2 Cor.* v. 14.

LIFE with CHRIST, GLORY. *1 John* iii. 2.

5. Sacrifice, Song, and Service.

2 Chron. xxix. 27, 28, 36.

"WHEN the burnt-offering began, the song of the Lord began."

1. Sacrifice. The Basis of WORSHIP. *v.* 27.

2. Song. The Evidence of JOY. *v.* 30.

3. Service. The Fruit of FELLOWSHIP. *v.* 31.

4. Success and Blessing. The Reward of FAITHFULNESS. *v.* 36.

6. **Jacob at Bethel.***Gen. xxviii. 10-22.*

1. **The Man Benighted.** "And tarried there all night."

GUILTY. v. 11.

2. **The Man Asleep.** "And lay down in that place to sleep."

RESTLESS. v. 11.

3. **The Man in his Dream.** "And he dreamed."

BLESSED. v. 12.

4. **The Man Awake.** "Jacob awaked out of his sleep."

SURPRISED. v. 16.

5. **The Man Afraid.** "And he was afraid."

FEARED. v. 17.

6. **The Man Worshipping.** "And he called the name of that place Bethel."

GRATEFUL. v. 19.

7. **The Man Promising.** "I will surely give the tenth unto Thee."

HOPEFUL. v. 22.

7. **Fishers and Fishing.***Luke v. 4-11.*

1. **Failure.** "We have toiled all night, and have taken nothing." v. 5.

2. **Faith.** "Nevertheless at Thy Word." v. 5.

3. **Fulness.** "They inclosed a great multitude of fishes." v. 7.

4. **Fellowship.** "They beckoned unto their partners." v. 7.

5. **Following.** "And followed Him." v. 11.

8. **Quietness and Rest.**

1. **The Picture of Life, or the Quietness of Rest.**

Ps. cvii. 23-30.

2. **The Principle of Life, or the Quietness of Heart.**

1 Pet. iii. 4.

3. **The Lesson of Life, or the Quietness of Mind.**

1 Thess. iv. 11.

4. **The Power of Life, or the Quietness of Soul.**

Isa. xxx. 15.

5. **The Path of Life, or the Quietness of Life.**

1 Tim. ii. 2.

6. **The Fruit of Life, or the Quietness of Joy.**

Ps. cvii. 30.

7. **The End of Life, or the Quietness of Home.**

*Ps. cvii. 30.*9. **Links of Love.**

1. **Meeting Together.** WORSHIP. *Matt. xviii. 20.*

2. **Dwelling Together.** UNITY. *Ps. cxxxiii. 1.*

3. **Living Together.** TESTIMONY. *Acts ii. 44.*

4. **Praising Together.** PRAISE. *Ps. xxxiv. 3.*

5. **Caught up Together.** GLORY. *1 Thess. iv. 17.*

10. **Seven Great Armies.**

THE Christian Life is a Walk, Work, and Warfare, and Christians are both pilgrims and soldiers; yes, all who are saved are soldiers of Jesus Christ. They are enlisted into His army, serving under His banner, and are fighting His battles. The conflict is severe, the enemies are strong, the issues are great, but the victory is certain. We see in the Bible there are seven different aspects of this army:—

1. **The Living Army, or God's Army,**
LIFE. *Exod. vii. 4; xii. 17.*
2. **The Skeleton Army,**
GRACE. *Ezek. xxxvii. 1-10.*
3. **The Salvation Army,**
SERVICE. *Ps. lxxviii. 11, 12 (R.V.).*
4. **The Church Army,**
TESTIMONY. *S. of Sol. vi. 10.*
5. **The Blue Ribbon Army,**
SEPARATION. *Judg. vii. 9.*
6. **The Regular Army,**
FAITHFULNESS. *Heb. xi. 32-34.*
7. **The Overcoming Army,**
VICTORY. *Rev. xix. 14-21.*

The Living Army of God were loved, liberated, and led on to victory and glory.

Jer. xxxi. 3; Exod. xv. 3; Josh. v. 14.

The Skeleton Army in Ezekiel was a picture of Israel's sad condition, and a symbol of the great Skeleton Army who are serving Satan to-day. The great question is: "Can these bones live?" Yes, by the Word of God, and the power of the Spirit of God: the command to us is, "Preach the Word." *2 Tim. iv. 2.*

The Salvation Army is for service. In this great Army Service Corps the Lord Himself is Captain. He gives the word of *call*, the word of *cheer*, the word of *command*, and the word of *commendation* (Luke ix. 59; Matt. xxviii. 19, 20; Matt. xxv. 21). This Army is great, active, and victorious, carrying forth the standard of truth, the banner of the Cross, and is certain of the glory in the Name of the Lord. *Ps. lx. 4; xx. 5.*

The Church Army is the living Church of God on their march to glory. They march in a body with flying colours.

They are under discipline, keeping rank and waving banners. They gather up recruits as they go, and by-and-by they will all muster at the Roll Call in the grand review. *Rev. vii. 9.*

The Blue Ribbon Army was tested and taught for Service, and was successful and triumphant through obedience. Self-restraint is a special Qualification for Active Service.

11. Telegrams for Help.

ONE of the wonders of the age is the facility of the Telegraph; but a greater wonder is that of prayer, and its speedy answer.

There are many short and important Telegrams sent up to Heaven in times of anxiety, trouble and danger, written in the Bible for our direction and help.

1. **From a Sinner in Distress.** *Luke xviii. 13, 14.*

This is a Telegram of seven words, "God be merciful to me a Sinner." At the one end, God in His Holiness; at the other end, the sinner in his sin. The bridge across, "Mercy." The answer, Salvation and Peace.

2. **From a Saint in Danger.** *2 Chron. xx. 12-15.*

"O our God, . . . we have no might; . . . neither know we what to do. . . . Be not afraid, the battle is not yours, but God's."

3. **From a Servant in Difficulty.** *Neh. ii. 4, 8.*

"So I prayed to the God of Heaven." "The king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me."

4. **From a Sufferer in Despair.** *Rev. vi. 10.*

"How long, O Lord, how long?" The cry of Loneliness (Ps. xiii. 12). The cry of Sorrow (Job xix. 2), and the cry of Hope (Rev. vi. 10). The answer, "Behold, I come quickly" (Rev. xxii. 7, 12, 20).

On the way to Sweden the celebrated Grotius was overtaken by mortal sickness, and when the clergyman reminded him of his sins on the one hand, and on the other, not of his services, but of the grace and mercy of God in Christ Jesus, with a reference to the publican, "I am that publican," replied Grotius, and then expired.

This real confession is the way to get God's saving mercy.

A little deaf and dumb girl was once asked by a lady, who wrote the question on a slate, "What is Prayer?" The little girl took her pencil and wrote the reply, "Prayer is the wish of the heart." How beautifully simple this was, and yet how true; prayer is just a telegram from the heart to God.

12. The Eternal God our Portion.

Deut. xxxiii. 26-29.

1. **A God Over Us.** His greatness—our *Power.* *v.* 26.
Saving power, separating power, and sovereign power. *Rom.* viii. 31, 37.
2. **A God For Us.** His Grace—our *Peace.* *v.* 27.
A sure and everlasting peace. *Ps.* xc. 1; *Isa.* xxv. 4.
3. **A God Under Us.** His goodness—our *Portion.* *v.* 27.

With hands to hold us, and arms to bear us.

Ps. lxxxix. 13; *Isa.* xli. 13.

4. **A God Before Us.** His guidance—our *Path.* *v.* 27.
He goes before us, smoothes our path, and leads us to victory. *Isa.* xlii. 6; *Eph.* v. 8.
5. **A God To Us.** His gifts—our *Possession.* *v.* 28.
Gifts of love, life, and glory.

John iii. 16; *x.* 28; *Rom.* viii. 32.

6. **A God Around Us.** His guardianship—our *Protection.* *v.* 29.

God puts His faithfulness and His fire round about His people. *Ps.* lxxxix. 8; *Zech.* ii. 5.

7. **A God In Us.** His glory—our *Prospect.* *v.* 29.
Safety, certainty, enjoyment, victory, and glory for all His people. *Ps.* cxliv. 18.

13. Five Windows of Light and Hope.

1. **The Living Hope.** The coming of the Lord—the *Light of Life.* *1 Pet.* i. 3.

This is the hope of His Church, health to His saints, help to His servants. *1 John* iii. 3.

2. **The Loving Hope.** Together with our friends—the *Light of Love.* *1 Thess.* ii. 19.

Then there will be loving gatherings, loving greetings, and loving gladness. *1 Cor.* xiii. 12.

3. **The Lifting Hope.** Caught up to meet Him—the *Light of Hope.* *1 Thess.* iv. 13.

Clouds of saved ones, crowds of comrades, and countless sons of glory to meet Him.

Rev. i. 7; *Col.* iii. 1-4.

4. **The Larger Hope.** *Himself*—the *Light of Joy.* *Tit.* ii. 13.

Not the godly, not the gatherings, not the glory; but Himself. *Acts* i. 11.

5. **The Lasting Hope.** For ever with the Lord—the *Light of Glory.* *John* xvii. 24.

With the living ones, with the loved ones, and with the Lord Himself for ever. *John* xiv. 3.

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

14. **Locks and Keys on Hearts and Lives.**

THERE are big locks of hindrance upon the hearts, lives, and lips of God's people, which prevent them enjoying His grace, manifesting His life, or loving His service. There are also Keys of Truth, which, when applied by the Holy Spirit, can open the hardest lock, remove the greatest hindrance, and bring the greatest blessing.

1. **The Old Lock of Doubt.** Faith is the Key.
2. **The Rusty Lock of Diffidence.** Love is the Key.
3. **The Broken Lock of Despair.** Promise is the Key.
4. **The Hard Lock of Difficulty.** Prayer is the Key.
5. **The Dead Lock of Delay.** Power is the Key.

The power of sin, evil habits, and deadly fear fill the heart with doubt, but the Key of Faith will open the hardest lock. *Acts xvi. 14-31; Rev. iii. 20.*

Love is the Key for rusty locks.

Acts iv. 20; 2 Cor. v. 14; 1 John iv. 19.

The Key of Promise brings us into liberty. *2 Pet. i. 4*

Prayer will overcome every difficulty. *Phil. iv. 6*

The Promises of God were the Keys used by Bunyan to open all the doors in Doubting Castle.

15. **Three Signs of Life.**

Ps. xl. 1-3, 16.

THE fortieth Psalm is the language of Christ, the Church, and the Christian; or a history of the Church, a prophecy of Christ, and a directory for every follower of Jesus. There are three distinct signs of life in the Soul—*Crying, Singing, and Speaking.*

1. **Crying.**

Ps. xl. 1.

"I waited patiently for the Lord . . . and He heard my cry."

The Cry of need, like the Publican. *Luke xviii. 13*

The Cry of distress, like the Disciples. *Matt. viii. 25*

The Cry for help, like the Woman. *Matt. xv. 25.*

The Cry of faith, which brings the Blessing.

2. **Singing.**

v. 3.

"And He hath put a new Song in my mouth."

The Singer. Saved one, out of the pit and on the rock. *v. 2.*

The Song. The New Song of Gratitude, Praise, and Power. *v. 3.*

The Singing. Hearty, Feeling, and Fruitful.

3. **Speaking.**

v. 16.

"Let such as love Thy Salvation say continually, The Lord be magnified."

"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so." *Ps. cvii. 2.*

Open testimony is one of the great Joys of the Christian life. *Ps. xlv. 1.*

To tell of His redeeming love is a great delight.

Isa. lxxiii. 7.

Thanksgiving and Thanksliving going together.

16. **Seasonable Truth—Salt.**

1. **A Portion of Salt.** SINCERITY. *Lev. ii. 13.*

2. **A Piece of Salt.** GRACE. *2 Kings ii. 21.*

3. **A Provision of Salt.** FOOD. *Ezra iv. 14; vi. 9.*

4. **A Pledge of Salt.** SECURITY. *2 Chron. xiii. 5.*

5. **A Parcel of Salt.** TESTIMONY. *Matt. v. 13.*

6. **A Pinch of Salt.** WISDOM. *Col. iv. 6.*

7. **A Pillar of Salt.** WARNING. *Gen. xix. 26.*

Every meal offering must be seasoned with salt to make

it pure, fresh, and acceptable. So in all our worship and service—the salt of sincerity and truth must be present.

John iv. 24.

Salt brings Cleansing, Healing, and Blessing. *Ps. ciii. 3.*

Salted with the salt of the palace (R.V.) means Royal provision.

Salt was commonly used in making solemn covenants, as a symbol of truth, a sign of agreement, and a seal of security.

Christians are like small parcels of fresh salt to purify and preserve this corrupt world. Our speech should always be wholesome, wise, and worthy, as witnesses of the Lord Jesus. *Matt. ix. 50; James iii. 13.*

“Remember Lot’s wife.”

17. **Links and Lights in the Resurrection of Christ.**

Matt. xxviii. 1-20.

THE resurrection of Christ is the heart and soul of Christianity; everything depends upon this fact. It is the Centre of all truth (1 Cor. xv. 1-5); the Foundation of the Church of Christ (Col. ii. 12); the Living Link which unites all true believers together (Col. i. 18); the Channel of blessing for all the saved (1 Pet. i. 3, 4); the Mainspring of all Christian service (Matt. xxviii. 18-20); the Pledge of our own resurrection (1 Cor. xv. 20); and the Sample of our own great change by-and-by (1 Cor. xv. 23). Matthew xxviii. gives us several bright links and lights in this wonderful scene of Christ’s resurrection power and glory.

1. **The Interested Women.** The power of love (v. 1). It was a united, anxious, devoted love; the true mark of earnest seeking souls.

2. **The Illustrious Visitor.** The Power of Light (vv. 2-4). “His countenance was like lightning.” A shining, mighty, overpowering light from heaven. This mighty power opened the grave, scattered the darkness, and brought the light of hope to every true believer.

3. **The Invitation to the Seekers.** The Power of Life (v. 6). “Come and see the place where the Lord lay.” This is the place of *instruction, life, comfort, and hope.* The greatest evidence of Christ’s mighty power. The power of an endless life. The power of His resurrection (Phil. iii. 10).

4. **The Instruction to the Disciples.** The Power of Liberty (vv. 7, 8). “And go quickly and tell,” etc. This is the right and privilege of every saved soul, to go forth and tell of a risen, living, loving Saviour, who has conquered every foe, overcome death, and lives to save to the uttermost.

5. **The Incentive of the Master.** The Power of our Leader (vv. 9, 10). “And as they went to tell His disciples, Jesus met them.” With the salutation of love, with the cheer of hope, and with the assurance of His presence, Jesus always does this with those who are in the path of duty and service.

6. **The Invention of the Enemy.** The Power of Lying (vv. 11-15). Whilst the followers of Christ were hastening with the good news of His Resurrection, Satan was busy inventing lies for his servants; but the power of truth will always overcome the devil’s lies.

7. **The Inspiration for Service.** The Power for Labour (vv. 16-20). The great inspiration for all Christian service is the person, peace, and power of the risen Christ. The power of Christ—“All power is given unto Me” (v. 18);

the command of Christ, "Go ye, therefore" (v. 19); the word of Christ, "All things" (v. 20); and the presence of Christ, "Lo, I am with you alway" (v. 20).

BIBLE READINGS IN RUTH.

18. Fellowship in Life.

Chap. i.—The Book of Ruth is one of the treasures of the Old Testament—a domestic story of more than ordinary interest, a wonderful picture of God's dealings in grace both with the Jews and Gentiles. In the four chapters we get four distinct thoughts—Fellowship of Life, Fellowship of Service, Fellowship of Rest, and Fellowship of Redemption. There are also four striking characters. Boaz a Type of Christ, Ruth and her experience a Picture of the Church (or Bride of Christ), Orpah of a Worldling, and Naomi of a Backslider restored and blessed. There are three special thoughts in this first chapter.

1. **Ruth's Choice.** "Entreat me not to leave thee."
Ruth i. 16.

2. **Ruth's Decision.** "I will go."

3. **Ruth's Action.** "So they two went until they came to Bethlehem."

Ruth decided to go with Naomi whatever the experience—joy or sorrow, life or death. She chose the Christian's *Portion*, "Thy God shall be my God" (Ps. lxxiii. 26; 1 Thess. i. 9). The Christian's *Path*, "Whither thou goest I will go" (John vi. 67, 68). The Christian's *Prospects*, "Thy people shall be my people" (1 Pet. ii. 9, 10).

Ruth had a clear, decided *mind*. "Steadfastly minded."
v. 18.

Ruth had a subdued *will*. "I will go."
v. 16.

Ruth had a fixed *heart*. "Ruth clave unto her." v. 14.
The decided earnest soul succeeds.

Gen. xxiv. 58; Luke xv. 18; Josh. xxiv. 15.

Resolutions and decisions are good when they are followed by actions. There must be the action of faith before the blessing of grace. Ruth left all the past (Ruth ii. 11). Ruth clung to Naomi and the God of Israel. Ruth stepped out by faith to trust God with all the future. If we are ready to trust God with body, soul, business, and all of life, then we are in the path of blessing. This is the secret of peace, the way of blessing, and the right to the eternal inheritance. *Trust God.*

Boaz, a Picture of the Prince of Life.

Naomi, a Picture of the Prodigal.

Orpah, a Picture of the Professor.

Ruth, a Picture of the Possessor.

19. Fellowship in Service.

Chap. ii.—Boaz is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this chapter we see it in three special aspects. He was a Kinsman, a Man of Wealth, and the owner of the Harvest-field. Fellowship with the Master in Harvest work is a great joy. There is the Master's presence, the Master's service, the Master's grace, and the Master's blessing.

1. **The Master's Presence.** "Boaz came from Bethlehem."
v. 4.

2. **The Master's Service.** "Reaping the Harvest."
v. 6.

3. **The Master's Grace.** "At meal time come," etc.
v. 14.

4. **The Master's Blessing.** "The Lord be with you."
v. 4.

The happy presence of Boaz was felt in various ways in the harvest-field. In his kind salutation to the workers, in his love to the stranger, and in his grace and help to all. So is the presence of Jesus felt in His great Harvest-field. Cheering the workers (John xx. 19, 22); blessing the strangers (John iv. 26-38); and guiding the work (Matt. xxviii. 18, 20).

Before the Reaping there is a great deal of labour in Ploughing and Sowing, Weeding and Waiting; then Reaping and Gathering. So in the Harvest-field of grace. There is Preaching and Praying, Instructing and Guiding, and then Reaping and Rejoicing.

Hos. x. 12; Mark iv. 28, 29; Ps. cxxvi. 6.

The grace of Boaz was very marked. He was so kind and thoughtful for all in the Harvest-field. He had a place of Rest in the field (v. 7), a "House" or Tent. He had vessels of Refreshment (v. 9). He had arranged meal times (v. 14), and he said that "handfuls of purpose" should be left for the gleaner. So the Lord Jesus our Master cares for His workers. He has places of rest, times of rest, and grace given to enjoy the rest (Mark vi. 31; Matt. xi. 29). He has vessels of refreshment in the field—*Bible, Preachers, and Workers* (2 Cor. iv. 7; 1 Tim. ii. 20)—and He has arranged regular meal times. *Prayer Meetings, Bible Readings, means of grace* in variety, and all who obey the invitation like Ruth will have "Bread enough and to spare" (v. 14).

The kind salutation of Boaz was the mark of a good Master; so that his workers had the joy of his fellowship, the benefit of his counsel and help. This is the secret of happiness in service, and all the Lord's workers enjoy this: counsel, fellowship, wages and reward (John iv. 36).

There are different fields for gleaners:—

The Field of the World, for Wanderers.	} <i>Jesus tells us to let fall some of the handfuls of purpose for the gleaners and seekers after blessing.</i>
The Field of Truth, for Seekers.	
The Field of Grace, for the Anxious.	
The Field of Service, for Workers.	

20. Fellowship in Rest.

Chap. iii.—All that Naomi and Ruth did to seek and enforce their rights as widows was in perfect harmony with the law of the land (Deut. xxv. 5-10). The purposes and provision of God and their own natural rights, and behind all this experience there is the lesson of love and grace for us. The end was the final Rest (Home) for Ruth—a picture of the soul finding rest in Jesus. There is

1. **Rest Needed.** "Shall I not seek rest for thee?"
v. 1.
2. **Rest Sought.** "All that thou sayest I will do."
v. 5.
3. **Rest Promised.** "I will do all thou requirest."
v. 11.
4. **Rest Perfected.** "The man will not be in rest,"
etc. v. 18.

Ruth needed Rest of Home, Rest of Heart, and Rest of Hope. She had none of these in Israel till she was redeemed by Boaz. This is the Threefold Rest for the Believer in Jesus as the fruit of Redemption.

Luke xv. 18; Matt. xi. 28, 29; Heb. iv. 8-11.

Ruth was obedient and willing to do all she was told. This is the way of blessing. The Bible is full of counsel, promise, and encouragement for seekers after rest (Isa. lv.

7; Matt. xi. 28). But there are three conditions: willingness, submission, and obedience (Matt. vii. 7; Jer. xxix. 13). Seek earnestly (Jer. xxix. 13). At the right place and at the right time (Isa. lv. 7).

Boaz gave Ruth a definite promise of Rest to remove her anxiety, to meet her need, and to give her immediate rest of heart. She had Boaz's "*I will.*" He made himself known, gave her a promise, and sent her away with a blessing. "Six measures of barley." Six is the incomplete measure; but more to follow. So the Lord Jesus reveals Himself (Acts ix. 5; John ix. 36, 37). Gives a definite promise of Rest (Matt. xi. 28), and meets our present need of Rest of Conscience, heart and life at once by saving and blessing us the moment we believe.

"Sit still." That is all Ruth had to do. Boaz had the whole matter in hand, and Naomi knew there was now the power of love at work which could not rest until the object was gained. That is all we are asked to do. Rest in the Saviour's love. The Lord Jesus had laboured in His love; suffered in His love, and He will rest in His love. There is a Rest which remains for the people of God (Heb. iv. 9).

It will never be disturbed.

Rev. vii. 15, 16, 17.

It will never be lost.

Rev. iii. 12.

It will never end.

Heb. iv. 9-12, 14, 15.

*God's rest is ours for
ever in Jesus.*

God's creation rest was disturbed by unbelief and sin. But God's redemption in Christ Jesus can never be disturbed nor spoiled.

21. Fellowship in Redemption.

Ruth iv.

THE great thought of Redemption crowns all in this book because it includes all. Redemption expresses the whole blessing of saving grace from the acceptance of the New Life to the singing of the New Song in the glory (1 Cor. i. 30). The duties of the kinsman here point us on to our Redeemer and His work. It means the *Redemption* of our souls, *Relationship* to our Redeemer, and the *Restoration* of our lost inheritance.

1. **Redemption.** "I will redeem it." v. 4.

2. **Relationship.** "Ruth . . . have I purchased." v. 10.

3. **Restoration.** "Blessed be the Lord." v. 14.

Boaz undertook to redeem Ruth and her inheritance, and to link her on to himself for present and future blessing. And he did this Willingly, Publicly, and Completely.

There are three things needed for a kinsman Redeemer.

He must have the Right to Redeem. Jesus is a near Kinsman. *Heb. ii. 14-18.*

He must have the Willingness to Redeem. Jesus was Willing to redeem. *Ps. xl. 7; Heb. ix. 10.*

He must have the Power to Redeem. Jesus has Power to redeem. *Heb. vii. 25; ii. 18.*

This Redemption brought Ruth into the closest relationship to Boaz. She has now a place of honour and blessing in Israel, and has become a type or picture of the unique position of the Church of God as the Bride of Christ (Eph. v. 25-27). This relationship of Ruth to Boaz was the closest that could possibly be. So is that of the Church to Christ. Partakers of His nature (2 Pet.

i. 4). Sharers of His joy (John xvii. 13). Heirs of His inheritance (Rom. viii. 17). Shall be with Him in glory (John xvii. 22). The Relationship of Ruth to Boaz was publicly acknowledged—registered with witnesses—and ratified by prayer (*vv.* 9, 10). So the union of Christ and His Church is registered in Heaven (Eph. i. 13, 14), and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

This interesting event restored to Naomi and Ruth the happy position lost by the failing of Elimelech, and they at once entered into the possession of those joys. Our lost inheritance is restored by Jesus. The image of God, the favour of God, and the glory of God, all restored in Christ. These blessings in Christ can be enjoyed now, and they link us on to His glory for ever.

1 *John* iii. 1-3; *John* xiv. 19; *Eph.* i. 14; 2 *Cor.* iii. 18.

22. Life Through the Wilderness.

Numbers ix. 15-23.

THE experience of Israel in the Wilderness is a picture of the Christian Life in this World, and their outward circumstances a parable of their Pilgrimage, and the Holy Spirit has used it for this purpose. 1 *Cor.* x. 11.

1. **The Real Presence.** "Cloud covered the Tabernacle."

2. **The Abiding Presence.** "So it was always."

3. **The Guiding Presence.** "Israel journeyed."

4. **The Resting Presence.** "They rested in their Tents."

On the day the Tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered it. Wherever we make room for the Lord, He will come—in the *Heart, Life, or Home.*

The cloud protected Israel from enemies around, from

the heat of the sun by day, and from the wild beasts during the night. So Christ puts Himself between us and danger.

The presence of Christ is a real presence to His people, and always insures blessing. *Protection* (*Dan.* iii. 25-27); *Peace* (*John* xx. 21); *Progress* (*John* x. 27), and *Provision* (*John* ii. 1-12).

God's presence never forsook Israel. "So it was always," notwithstanding all their sins, their murmuring and unbelief, the cloud did not leave them. It abode till the morning. So the Lord Jesus is always with His people in Spirit, and will be till the morning.

Matt. xxviii. 20.

The route of march for Israel was all marked out by the Lord, the halting places all fixed, the length of stay determined, and moving times, were all arranged by the Lord Himself. So now the Lord guides His people by His Word, His Spirit, and His Providence through this dreary world, on to the Home of Glory.

When the cloud came down upon the Tabernacle, then there they *halted* and *rested*. The promise is His Presence and Rest. It was the Rest of *peace*: this would call forth *gratitude*. It was the Rest of *waiting*: this would exercise their *patience*. It was the Rest of *obedience*: this would exercise their *faith*. It was all at the command of the Lord.

23. What is a Christian?

His Description in the Word.

His Description in the Word; His Position in the World; His Relationship to God; and His Prospects for the Future?

1. **Believers for their Faith.** "We are all the children of God by Faith." *Gal. iii. 26.*

There is no difference in themselves; but faith in God makes the difference.

They Believe God's Love. This is Light.
John iii. 33; Gal. ii. 20.

They Believe on Christ. This is Salvation. Not a creed, but a person. *Acts xvi. 31.*

They Believe the Holy Spirit's Testimony. This gives Safety, Certainty, and Enjoyment.

The Fruit of Faith is *Life*; the Power of Faith is *Walk*, and the Activity of Faith is *Work*.

2. **Disciples for their Knowledge.** "We know that we have passed from death unto life." *1 John iii. 14.*

It is important to have the Mind clear, as well as the Soul saved.

Christians know the Truth. This makes them *Free*.
John viii. 32.

Christians know they are Saved. This makes them *Sure*.
1 John iii. 14.

Christians know they have Eternal Life. This makes them *Bold*.
1 John v. 13.

Christians know they are going to Heaven. This makes them *Happy*.
2 Cor. v. 1.

This knowledge increases in the School of Experience; but it will be perfected in Heaven.

Col. i. 10; 1 Cor. xiii. 10-12.

3. **Brethren for their Love.** "And all ye are Brethren."
Matt. xxiii. 8.

God is their Father; Christ is their Brother; the Holy Spirit is their Comforter; and all saved ones are Brethren. This is the Birthright of every Christian.

The special feature of their character is *Love* in the heart by the Holy Ghost. *Rom. v. 5.*

Love manifested Godward. *1 John iv. 19.*

Love manifested Churchward. *John xiii. 34.*

Love manifested Worldward. *2 Cor. v. 14.*

The Royal Command from Heaven is, "Love one another."

4. **Saints for their Holiness.** "Called to be saints."
1 Cor. i. 2.

All God's people have a real character before God and men.

Saved by the Grace of God. *Eph. ii. 8.*

Separated by the Word of God. *2 Cor. vi. 17.*

Sanctified by the Power of God. *1 Thess. v. 23.*

Satisfied by-and-by in the Presence of God.
Ps. xvii. 15.

The world has been divided into four classes—*Believers*, *Half-believers*, *Make-believers*, and *Unbelievers*. Which are we?

The Precept is, "Have faith in God." *Mark xi. 22.*

The Prayer is, "Lord increase our faith."
Luke xvii. 5.

The Promise is, "According to your faith."
Matt. ix. 29.

24. **What is a Christian?**

His Relationship to God.

The Christian Life is a manifold life, and has a special relationship to God, to the Church, and to the World, and with these relationships great responsibilities. But what is this special relationship of the Christian to God?

1. **God's Child for Affection.** "Now are we the Sons of God."
1 John iii. 1, 2.

This special relationship is the fruit of Divine Love.

We are made Children by the power of the Holy Spirit (John iii. 3). By the Light of the Word (Jas. i. 18), and by the grace of Faith (Gal. iii. 26), and the Father's wish is that we should dwell with Him at Home, talk to Him in Prayer, sing for Him in Praise, walk with Him in Fellowship, and be near Him for Service.

2. God's Friend for Communion. "I have called you friends." *John xv. 15.*

This means our confidence and joy in God, and God's confidence and joy in us.

Friendship means special Fellowship. The Lord tells us His secrets. *Isa. xli. 8; Ps. xxv. 14.*

Friendship means mutual Love. Christ's love is constant, close, and changeless.

Prov. xvii. 17; xviii. 24; Heb. xiii. 8.

Friendship means Faithfulness. Faithfulness in Love, Life, and Labour.

3. God's Treasure for Possession. "Chosen to be a special people." *Deut. vii. 6.*

Christians are God's special, peculiar treasure, He will enjoy for ever.

A Treasure He has Found. *Matt. xiii. 44.*

A Treasure He has Redeemed. *Deut. vii. 7, 8.*

A Treasure He is Polishing as Jewels. *Mal. iii. 17.*

A Treasure He will Exhibit in the Glory. *Eph. ii. 7.*

The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. *Eph. i. 18.*

4. God's Property for use. "And ye are not your own." *1 Cor. vi. 19.*

This is the great purpose in their salvation, that they may be used for His glory.

To Exhibit His grace on earth, as Living Letters in large type. *2 Cor. ii. 3; iii. 2, 3.*

To Confess His Name before men, as Witnesses.

Matt. x. 32.

To Tell the story of His Love to others, as Ambassadors. *2 Cor. v. 20.*

To Show forth His Glory in the World to come.

Eph. i. 12, 13, 14.

There are three marks of God's affectionate children—Love, Obedience, Service. Love is life in the soul, Obedience is the blossom of Love, and Service is the fruit of Obedience.

Three kinds of Servants: Slaves for fear, Servants for wages, and Sons for love. "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

25. What is a Christian?

His Position in the World.

THE Christian has an important position in the world. This is clearly described in the seventh chapter of St. John's Gospel.

He is Saved out of the World. Salvation. *v. 9.*

He is Left in the World. Testimony. *v. 11.*

He is Kept from the World. Preservation. *vv. 11, 12, 13.*

He is Not of the World. Separation. *v. 14.*

He is Sent into the World. Commission. *v. 18.*

He is Used in the World. Service. *v. 20.*

He is to Save the World. Success. *v. 21.*

The Christian is a Pilgrim and Stranger in the world, the Home and Rest are on the other side. His Security and Standing are in Christ Jesus, like Noah in the Ark, the Stone in the Building, and the Branch in the Vine.

1. **The Christian in the World.** In Influence is a Light. *Matt. v. 14.*

A Light set by the Holy Spirit, placed in the Master's House, and commanded to shine for the Lord. The Lord lights us by His Word, rubs us by affliction and trial, and polishes us by service, that we may shine for His glory. We are to

Shine as the SUN	with a Burning Light.
Shine as the MOON	with a Borrowed Light.
Shine as the STARS	with a Brilliant Light.
Shine as a LAMP	with a Business Light.
Shine as the CANDLE	with a Useful Light.
Shine as the GLOWWORM	with a Startling Light.

So many are depending on our Light :

The Sinner in the Dark; the Saint in Danger; the Worker in Difficulty; and the Pilgrim on his path-way to glory. Let us Shine!

2. **The Christian in the World.** In Testimony a Witness. *Luke xxiv. 48.*

"Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord." What is essential for a good witness? Life, Knowledge, Confidence, and Power. What is our testimony? Christ the Crucified One, Christ the Risen One, and Christ the Coming One.

The power of witness-bearing is the Holy Spirit.

Acts i. 8.

3. **The Christian in the World.** In Conflict a Soldier. *2 Tim. ii. 3.*

The Christian life is a conflict. The battle is raging; but Victory is certain.

We are Commanded to put on the whole armour of God. *Eph. vi. 11-18.*

We are Commanded to endure hardness as good Soldiers. *2 Tim. ii. 3.*

We are Commanded to fight the good fight of faith.

1 Tim. vi. 12.

We have a threefold enemy: the World, the Flesh, and the Devil; and a threefold armour: the Armour of Light (Rom. xiii. 12); Righteousness (2 Cor. vi. 7); the whole armour of God (Eph. vi. 11).

We are to stand firm, be brave, obey orders, keep close to the Captain, and hold the Fort.

4. **The Christian in the World.** In Responsibility a Steward *1 Cor. iv. 2.*

Every Believer is a Steward for God, and will have to account for all.

A Steward holds in sacred trust what is committed to him. *1 Tim. i. 11; 2 Cor. v. 19.*

A Steward has to minister what he receives to others. *1 Pet. iv. 10.*

A Steward must act with diligence and faithfulness.

1 Cor. iv. 2.

A Steward will have to give an account to God.

Luke xvi. 2.

26. **What is a Christian?**

His Prospects in the Future.

The Prospects in the Future of the Christian are very bright and glorious.

His Graces are to be Perfected. His Body is to be glorified.

His Redemption is to be Completed. His Services to be perpetuated.

His Hopes are to be Realized. His Soul is to be filled, and

His Abode will be for ever with the Lord, and what the Christian is to do now, is to "Seek those things which are above," etc.

"Reckon that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed," and "To look for the coming of the Lord."

Col. iii. 1, 4; Rom. viii. 18; Tit. ii. 13.

1. He is a Saint going to be Satisfied.

It is Salvation, Sanctification, Separation, Service, and then Satisfaction.

"Now are we the Sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be." *1 John iii. 2.*

It will be, to have the Mind satisfied, the Heart satisfied, and the Soul satisfied in the presence of God, in the Home of rest, and in the Service of God.

Ps. xvii. 18; xvi. 11.

2. He is a Son going to his Inheritance.

"Wherefore thou art no more a Servant, but a Son, and if a Son, then an heir of God through Christ." *Gal. iv. 7.*

The Christian is a "joint heir with Christ."

Rom. viii. 17.

What we were **SERVANTS** We have the Right, Title, and

What we are **SONS** Education here and the
What we shall be **HEIRS** Inheritance of Glory there. *1 Pet. i. 4.*

3. He is a Servant going to his Reward.

"Verily there is a Reward for the Righteous." The Rewards will be given by Christ, and will be according to the work done. *1 Cor. iii. 14.*

The Diligent Servant will be rewarded.

1 Cor. xv. 58.

The Faithful Servant will be rewarded. *2 Tim. iv. 8*

The Suffering Servant will be rewarded and compensated. *2 Tim. ii. 12; 2 Cor. iii. 17.*

4. He is a Singing Pilgrim going Home.

It is a Grand Home the Pilgrim has on the other side.

It is a City which hath foundations. *Heb. xi. 10, 16.*

It is the Father's House with many Mansions.

John xiv. 2.

It is a Happy Home of Joy and Song. *Rev. v. 9.*

No wonder the Christian Pilgrim sings on his way to Glory.

5. He is a Soul-Winner going to Shine.

"He that winneth souls is wise." "They that be wise shall shine." *Dan. xii. 3.*

"Then shall the Righteous shine." *Matt. xiii. 43.*

We shall shine like the Sun, the Stars, and the Saviour Himself. *1 John iii. 2; 1 Cor. xv. 49.*

6. He is a Sealed One going to be Manifested.

Hidden now, Revealed by-and-by.

The Christian is Saved and Sealed until the Day of Redemption. *Eph. i. 13, 14.*

The Christian will See Jesus as He is. *1 John iii. 2.*

The Christian will Appear with Him in Glory.

Col. iii. 2.

The Christian will be Manifested with all the family or Sons of God. *Rom. viii. 19.*

And will be ever With the Lord. *1 Thess. iv. 17.*

CHAPTER II

STRONG NAILS FOR BUILDING PURPOSES

27. GOD IS?

1. **God is Light.** Revealing our Sin. *1 John i. 5.*
2. **God is Love.** Redeeming our Souls. *1 John iv. 8.*
3. **God is a Spirit.** Renewing our Natures. *John iv. 24.*
4. **God is Holy.** Restoring our Lives. *Isa. v. 16.*
5. **God is a Fire.** Refining our Graces. *Heb. xii. 29.*
6. **God is Righteous.** Rewarding our Work. *Ps. cxlv. 17; Heb. vi. 10.*
7. **God is Eternal.** Rejoicing our Future. *Ps. xc. 2.*

28. JESUS.

1. **Jesus is the Son of God.** *John xx. 31.*
Showing us the Father. *John i. 18.*
2. **Jesus is the Son of Man.** *Luke xix. 10.*
Seeking the Lost. *Luke xv. 4.*
3. **Jesus is the Sacrifice for Sin.** *Heb. x. 12.*
Suffering for His People. *1 Pet. iii. 18.*
4. **Jesus is the Saviour of Men.** *Matt. i. 21.*
Separating them to God. *Tit. ii. 11-14.*
5. **Jesus is the Sanctifier of Believers.** *Heb. xiii. 12.*
Sealing His Own. *1 Cor. i. 2.*
6. **Jesus is the Surety for His People.** *Heb. vii. 22.*
Securing their Souls. *Heb. vii. 25.*
7. **Jesus is the Satisfaction for all.** *Col. i. 19.*
Supplying their need. *Phil. iv. 19.*

29. The Holy Spirit.

1. **The Holy Spirit is Light.** *1 Cor. ii. 10, 13.*
Enlightening our Minds. *John xvi. 13.*
2. **The Holy Spirit is Love.** *Rom. v. 4.*
Enriching our Hearts. *Gal. v. 22.*
3. **The Holy Spirit is Life.** *Job xxxiii. 4.*
Energizing our Souls. *Rom. viii. 11.*
4. **The Holy Spirit is Liberty.** *2 Cor. iii. 17.*
Expanding our Graces. *Rom. viii. 3.*
5. **The Holy Spirit is a Leader.** *John xvi. 13.*
Explaining our Way. *Rom. viii. 14.*
6. **The Holy Spirit is a Legislator.** *1 John ii. 20.*
Enjoining our Duty. *John xiv. 26.*
7. **The Holy Spirit is Loyal.** *John xvi. 14, 15.*
Exhibiting our Saviour. *John xv. 26.*

30. Seven Views of Man.

1. **Man Reflecting the Image of God.** *Gen. i. 27.*
HIS CREATION. *Eph. iv. 24.*
2. **Man Ruined by the Power of Satan.** *Gen. iii. 7.*
HIS CONFUSION. *Rom. v. 12.*
3. **Man Redeemed by the Lord Jesus.** *Eph. i. 7.*
HIS CONSOLATION. *1 Pet. i. 19.*
4. **Man Regenerated by the Holy Spirit.** *John iii. 7.*
HIS CONVERSION. *1 John iv. 13.*
5. **Man Restored by Divine Grace.** *Eph. ii. 8.*
HIS COMMUNION. *Tit. ii. 11-13.*
6. **Man Resembling the Character of God.**
Col. iii. 10.
HIS CHARACTER. *2 Cor. iii. 18.*
7. **Man Rejoicing in the Hope of Glory.** *Rom. v. 2.*
HIS CHEER. *Heb. iii. 6.*

31. **What is Sin?**

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|--|--|
| 1. The Work of the Devil. | 1 <i>John</i> iii. 8. |
| Opposition to God. | <i>Rom.</i> i. 18. |
| 2. The Want of Obedience. | <i>Rom.</i> xiv. 23. |
| Opposition to Christ. | <i>Gal.</i> ii. 17. |
| 3. The Wilfulness of Man. | <i>John</i> v. 40; 1 <i>John</i> i. 8. |
| Opposition to the Holy Spirit. | <i>John</i> xvi. 8. |
| 4. The Wish of the Human Heart. | 1 <i>John</i> v. 17. |
| Opposition to Holiness. | 1 <i>John</i> iii. 9. |
| 5. The Waste of God's Gifts. | <i>Matt.</i> xxii. 5. |
| Opposition to Love. | 1 <i>John</i> v. 1, 2. |
| 6. The Wandering of the Lost. | <i>Luke</i> xix. 10. |
| Opposition to Light. | <i>John</i> xii. 35. |
| 7. The Woe of the World. | <i>Rom.</i> iii. 23. |
| Opposition to Righteousness. | 1 <i>John</i> v. 17. |

32. **What is Redemption?**

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|--|-------------------------|
| 1. The Greatest Work of God. | <i>John</i> iii. 16. |
| LOVE. | 1 <i>John</i> iv. 10. |
| 2. The Grandest Glory of Christ. | <i>Col.</i> i. 12-19. |
| GRACE. | <i>Tit.</i> ii. 11-14. |
| 3. The Gracious Work of the Spirit. | <i>Heb.</i> ix. 14. |
| POWER. | <i>John</i> xvi. 13. |
| 4. The Gladdest Message for Man. | 1 <i>Tim.</i> i. 15. |
| SALVATION. | <i>Luke</i> ii. 10, 11. |
| 5. The Gathering Force of the Church. | <i>Eph.</i> i. 3-14. |
| LIFE. | 2 <i>Thess.</i> ii. 1. |
| 6. The Glorious Wonder of the Universe. | 1 <i>Pet.</i> i. 12. |
| LIGHT. | <i>Eph.</i> iii. 9-11. |
| 7. The Grateful Song in Heaven. | <i>Rev.</i> v. 9. |
| GLORY. | <i>Rev.</i> vii. 9-17. |

33. **What is Faith?**

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| 1. The Thought of the Mind by God's Spirit. | Repentance towards God. | <i>Matt.</i> xxii. 42. |
| 2. The Thanks of the Heart for God's Love. | Return to God. | 2 <i>Cor.</i> ix. 15. |
| 3. The Taste of the Soul of God's Grace. | Realization of God. | 1 <i>Pet.</i> ii. 3. |
| 4. The Take of the Hand of God's Gift. | Reception from God. | <i>Rev.</i> xxii. 17. |
| 5. The Turn of the Eye to God's Mercy. | Response to God. | <i>John</i> i. 29. |
| 6. The Touch of our Need of God's Power. | Reality before God. | <i>Mark</i> v. 27, 28. |
| 7. The Trust of our Lives to God's Word. | Reliance upon God. | 1 <i>Tim.</i> iv. 10. |

34. **What is Salvation?**

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Decision for Christ. | <i>John</i> iv. 41, 42. |
| Trusting the Lord. | <i>Acts</i> xvi. 30-34. |
| 2. Deliverance from Sin. | <i>Tit.</i> ii. 14. |
| Turning from Evil. | <i>Gal.</i> i. 4. |
| 3. Destruction of Self. | <i>Gal.</i> ii. 20. |
| Triumph of Grace. | 2 <i>Cor.</i> v. 15-17. |
| 4. Development of Life. | <i>John</i> x. 10. |
| Thriving of Soul. | 2 <i>Pet.</i> i. 10. |
| 5. Dignity of Sonship. | <i>Gal.</i> iii. 26. |
| Token of Royalty. | <i>Gal.</i> iv. 7. |
| 6. Delight in the Lord. | <i>Isa.</i> xii. 2, 3. |
| Treasures of Joy. | 1 <i>Pet.</i> i. 8. |
| 7. Dawn of the Glory. | <i>Rom.</i> v. 1, 2. |
| Title to Heaven. | <i>Rev.</i> vii. 14, 15. |

35. **What is Sanctification?**

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| 1. Possession of Christ. | <i>Heb. xiii. 12.</i> |
| Christ Saving us. | <i>1 Cor. i. 30; Heb. ii. 11.</i> |
| 2. Power of the Spirit. | <i>1 Pet. i. 2.</i> |
| Spirit Renewing us. | <i>1 Cor. vi. 11.</i> |
| 3. Purity of Heart. | <i>John xvii. 17.</i> |
| Word Cleansing us. | <i>Eph. v. 26, 27.</i> |
| 4. Principle of Holiness. | <i>2 Cor. vi. 17.</i> |
| Grace Separating us. | <i>2 Thess. ii. 13.</i> |
| 5. Progressive Salvation. | <i>John xvii. 19.</i> |
| Truth Instructing us. | <i>Acts xx. 32.</i> |
| 6. Perfection in Grace. | <i>1 Thess. iv. 3, 4.</i> |
| Love Ripening us. | <i>2 Tim. ii. 21.</i> |
| 7. Pledge of the Glory. | <i>Acts xxvi. 18.</i> |
| Hope Purifying us. | <i>1 Thess. v. 23.</i> |

36. **What is Christian Life?**

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| 1. It is a Spiritual Life. | By the Holy Ghost. |
| | <i>1 Cor. ii. 12-15.</i> |
| 2. It is a New Life. | From God. <i>2 Cor. v. 17.</i> |
| 3. It is a Hidden Life. | In Christ. <i>Col. iii. 3.</i> |
| 4. It is a Holy Life. | By Obedience. |
| | <i>Rom. vi. 19, 22.</i> |
| 5. It is a Progressive Life. | By Perseverance. |
| | <i>2 Pet. i. 5-8.</i> |
| 6. It is a Fruitful Life. | By Abiding. |
| | <i>John xv. 4-8.</i> |
| 7. It is an Eternal Life. | A Free Gift. |
| | <i>1 John v. 11-13.</i> |

37. **What is Assurance?**

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. The Fruit of Faith. | <i>2 Tim. i. 12.</i> |
| Ripe Grace. | <i>Heb. x. 12; Eph. iii. 12.</i> |
| 2. The Fact in Experience. | <i>1 John iii. 14.</i> |
| Living Power. | <i>1 John iii. 19.</i> |
| 3. The Favour of God. | <i>1 Thess. i. 4.</i> |
| Happy Life. | <i>Rom. viii. 38, 39.</i> |
| 4. The Feeling of Confidence. | <i>Phil. i. 6.</i> |
| Real Rest. | <i>2 Cor. v. 6; Heb. x. 35.</i> |
| 5. The Fulness of Knowledge. | <i>Col. ii. 2.</i> |
| Clear Light. | <i>1 Thess. i. 5.</i> |
| 6. The Feast of the Soul. | <i>Rom. v. 1, 2.</i> |
| Sweet Joy. | <i>1 John iii. 2.</i> |
| 7. The Force of God's Word. | <i>1 Pet. i. 25.</i> |
| Certain Truth. | <i>1 John v. 13.</i> |

38. **What is the Atonement?**

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| 1. In Relation to God. | SATISFACTION. |
| 2. In Relation to Sin. | EXPIATION. |
| 3. In Relation to the Believer. | SUBSTITUTION. |
| 4. In Relation to the World. | SALVATION. |
| 5. In Relation to the Church. | SEPARATION. |

39. **What is Christian Fellowship?**

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| 1. The Fellowship of the Father. | <i>Acts ii. 42.</i> |
| 2. The Fellowship of Christ. | <i>1 Cor. i. 9.</i> |
| 3. The Fellowship of Communion. | <i>1 John i. 3.</i> |
| 4. The Fellowship of Love. | <i>Gal. ii. 9.</i> |
| 5. The Fellowship of Suffering. | <i>Phil. iii. 10.</i> |
| 6. The Fellowship of the Spirit. | <i>Phil. ii. 1.</i> |
| 7. The Fellowship of Service. | <i>Phil. i. 5.</i> |

40. **What is Christian Love?**

1. **The Fruit of the Spirit.** *Gal. v. 22.*
2. **The Evidence of Sonship.** *1 John iii. 14.*
3. **The Mainspring of Obedience.**
John xiv. 15; xxi. 23.
4. **The Sacrifice of Self.** *Gal. ii. 20.*
5. **The Secret of Service.**
1 Thess. i. 3, 9; John xxi. 15-17.
6. **The Moving Power Within.** *2 Cor. v. 14.*
7. **The Abiding Grace.** *1 Cor. xiii. 13.*

41. **What is Hope?**

1. **The Saved One's Treasure.** *Col. i. 27.*
The Enriching Grace. *Jer. xvii. 7.*
2. **The Soul's Sure Anchor.** *Heb. vi. 19.*
The Holding Power. *1 John iii. 19.*
3. **The Saints' Guiding Star.** *2 Pet. i. 19.*
The Heavenly Light. *Dan. xii. 3.*
4. **The Shadow of our Own Wishes.** *2 Thess. ii. 16.*
The Inspiring Word. *1 Pet. iii. 15.*
5. **The Soul of Enterprise.** *Rom. viii. 24.*
The Cheer of Life. *1 John iii. 3.*
6. **The Silver Lining to the Cloud.** *Heb. vi. 11.*
The Ray of Comfort. *1 Thess. iv. 13-18.*
7. **The Signal from the Glory.** *Rom. v. 2.*
The Light of the Future. *Tit. ii. 13.*

42. **What is the Church?**

1. **The Hidden Mystery Revealed.** *Eph. iii. 3-9.*
2. **The Body of Christ Purchased.** *Eph. v. 25.*

3. **The Temple of the Holy Ghost Filled.**

- 2 Cor. vi. 16.*
4. **The Spiritual House Building.** *1 Pet. ii. 5.*
5. **The Hidden Treasure Restored.** *Matt. xiii. 44.*
6. **The Great Pearl Possessed.** *Matt. xiii. 46.*
7. **The Bride of Christ Presented.** *Eph. v. 27.*

43. **What is Baptism?**

1. **A Divine Command to be Obeyed.**
Matt. xxviii. 19; Mark xvi. 16.
2. **A Sign of Conversion to be Experienced.**
Acts ii. 42.
3. **A Confession of Faith to be Intelligent.**
Acts viii. 36-38.
4. **A Testimony to Christ to be Public.**
Acts x. 48; xvi. 30-34.
5. **A Picture of Spiritual Experience to be Known.**
Rom. vi. 4.
6. **A Mark of Separation to be Accepted.** *Col. ii. 12.*
7. **A Figure of Resurrection Life to be Lived.**
1 Pet. iii. 21.

44. **What is the Lord's Supper?**

- 1 Cor. xi. 23-26.*
1. **A Command of our Lord.** "Do this
2. **A Memorial of Love.** In Remembrance of Me."
3. **A Bond of Fellowship.** "As often as ye eat this Bread
4. **A Testimony for Christ.** Yedoshow the Lord's death
5. **A Confession of Hope.** Till He Come."

45. **Not the Cross, but Christ.**

THE Cross of Christ, generally mentioned in the Bible, does not refer to the wood upon which He was crucified, but His atoning death. His finished work on the Cross for sinners. There is no blessing in either wearing or adoring a Crucifix. Salvation comes not from the Cross but Christ.

1. **Not the Cross,** but Christ.
2. **Not Relics,** but Redemption.
3. **Not Ornaments,** but Omnipotence.
4. **Not Symbols,** but Salvation.
5. **Not Sentiment,** but Separation.

46. **What is Heaven?**

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| 1. Perfect Light. | <i>Rev. xxi. 23.</i> |
| No Darkness. | <i>Rev. xxii. 5.</i> |
| 2. Perfect Love. | 1 <i>John iii. 1, 2.</i> |
| No Want. | <i>Ps. xvii. 15.</i> |
| 3. Perfect Life. | <i>Rev. xxii. 2.</i> |
| No Death. | 1 <i>Cor. xv. 51-57.</i> |
| 4. Perfect Purity. | <i>Rev. xxii. 27.</i> |
| No Sin. | <i>Heb. xii. 14; Rev. xxi. 10.</i> |
| 5. Perfect Joy. | <i>Isa. xxxv. 10.</i> |
| No Sorrow. | <i>Rev. xxi. 4; xxii. 4.</i> |
| 6. Perfect Service. | <i>Rev. vii. 15.</i> |
| No Weariness. | <i>Rev. xxii. 3.</i> |
| 7. Perfect Praise. | 1 <i>Pet. iv. 11.</i> |
| No Discord. | <i>Rev. v. 9.</i> |

CHAPTER III

POINTED NAILS FOR GENERAL USE

47. **Telegrams from Heaven.**

TELEGRAMS suggest three things—Important business, Immediate attention, and Speedy reply. This is so with earthly messages; but it is tenfold more true of the messages of Life and Death, which come direct from God Himself. The Bible has books of instruction, letters of love, and messages of mercy in great variety, but besides these there are *Sharp, Short, Solemn* telegrams of truth, straight from the throne of God to the hearts of all men: telegrams of Warning to the Lost, Light to the Seeker, Love to the Saint, Instruction to the Servant, and Words of Cheer and Comfort to the Sufferer. There are Five Telegrams worth our notice.

1. **The Telegram to the Sinner.** "Prepare to meet thy God." *Amos iv. 12*

What a solemn message is this! face to face with God The meeting must take place; how soon we cannot tell A preparation is needed: Sin must be put away, Righteousness put on, and Holiness imparted, or the meeting will be a sad one. *Heb. xii. 14.*

2. **The Telegram to the Seeker.** "Behold the Lamb of God." *John i. 29.*

It is looking off from self to Christ. Truth lights the seeking soul straight to the Lamb of God, and there is

Life for a look at the Crucified One, Life in looking at once (Isa. xlv. 22), Life for every seeking soul.

3. **The Telegram to the Saved one.** "Be strong in the Lord." *Eph. vi. 10.*

Be strong in the Lord—not in Self, not in Circumstances, not in Services; but in the Lord Himself, and in the Power of His might, Strong to Stand, Strong to Walk, Strong to Fight, and Strong to Work.

1 Cor. xvi. 13; 2 Tim. ii. 1; 1 Cor. xv. 58.

4. **The Telegram to the Servant.** "Occupy till I come." *Luke xix. 13.*

This is the special word to the servant of Christ in these busy days of worldly thoughtlessness, and deepening darkness. We all have something to trade with; we all have opportunities for service.

We all have our own work to do, and we all have to face the reckoning with the Master by-and-by.

2 Cor. v. 10.

5. **The Telegram to the Sufferer.** "Behold, I come quickly." *Rev. xxii. 7, 12, 20.*

Three times the Lord repeats this message in this chapter in order to quicken and comfort His sorrowing people, and His waiting Church replies, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

"'Hold the fort, for I am coming,'

Jesus signals still;

Wave the answer back to Heaven,

'By Thy grace we will.'"

48. **Golden Gates of Love and Life.**

John iii. 16.

1. **The Flood Gate of Love.**

2. **The Wide Gate of Hope.**

"God so loved

The world

3. **The Open Gate of Grace.**

That He gave
His only be-
gotten Son,

4. **The Welcome Gate of Promise.**

That whosoever

5. **The Narrow Gate of Salvation.**

Believeth

6. **The Refuge Gate of Safety.**

Shall not perish,

7. **The Blessed Gate of Life.**

But have ever-
lasting life."

49. **A Message for All.**

Isa. xlv. 22.

1. **A Direction for the Anxious.**

"Look unto Me,

2. **A Message for the Lost.**

And be ye saved,

3. **A Hope for the Outcast.**

All the ends of the
earth.

4. **A Word for the Helpless.**

For I am God,

5. **A Warning for All.**

And there is none
else."

50. **Self, or the Saviour, Which?**

Mark viii. 34-38.

1. **The Condition of Following Christ.** Denying
Self. *v. 34.*

2. **The Character of Testimony for Christ.** Losing
Life. *v. 35.*

3. **The Contrast between the World and Christ.**
Gain or loss. *v. 26.*

4. **The Cost of Denying Christ.** Loss of the soul.
v. 27.

5. **The Consequences of being Ashamed of Christ.**
Christ ashamed of us. *v. 28.*

51. **Now! Now! Now!**

1. **The Now of Calvary.** *Heb. ix. 26.*
Sin Question Settled. *1 Pet. ii. 24.*
2. **The Now of Grace.** *2 Cor. vi. 2.*
Salvation Question Settled. *Luke xiv. 17.*
3. **The Now of Resurrection.** *1 Cor. xv. 20.*
Standing Question Settled. *1 Pet. i. 3.*
4. **The Now of Deliverance.** *Rom. viii. 1.*
Safety Question Settled. *John x. 28.*
5. **The Now of Relationship.** *1 John iii. 2.*
Sonship Question Settled. *Gal. iv. 6, 7.*
6. **The Now of Intercession.** *Heb. ix. 24.*
Surety Question Settled. *Heb. vii. 25.*
7. **The Now of Safety.** *Jude 24.*
Security Question Settled. *Jude 1; 2 Tim. iv. 18*

52. **Wonderful Worms.**

1. **The Earth Worm.** A Symbol of the Sensual Sinner. *Job vii. 5, 6, xxv. 6; Micah vii. 17.*
2. **The Glow Worm.** An Illustration of the Saved Soul. *Isa. xli. 14; Matt. v. 14, 16.*
3. **The Silk Worm.** A Guide to Spiritual Service. *Exod. xxxv. 25; Eccles. ix. 10*
4. **The Grub Worm.** A Reminder of the Sleeping Saint. *Job xix. 26, 27.*
5. **The Changed Worm.** A Type of the Shining Glory. *1 Cor. xv. 42-57.*

53. **The Wonderful Name.**

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| 1. The Name of Grace. | Salvation. | <i>Matt. i. 21.</i> |
| 2. The Name of Power. | Pardon. | <i>Acts x. 42.</i> |
| 3. The Name of Might. | Life. | <i>John xx. 31.</i> |
| 4. The Name of Healing. | Virtue. | <i>Acts iii. 16.</i> |
| 5. The Name of Merit. | Access. | <i>John xiv. 13.</i> |
| 6. The Name of Blessing. | Hope. | <i>Acts iv. 12.</i> |
| 7. The Name of Honour. | Glory. | <i>Phil. ii. 10, 11.</i> |

54. **Light to the Cross.***Gen. xxii. 1-14.*

1. **A Picture of the Father's Love.** The gift of love. *vv. 1-5.*
2. **A Type of the Saviour's Work.** The sacrifice of love. *vv. 6-10.*
3. **A Window of the Spirit's Light.** The light of love. *vv. 11-13.*
4. **A Figure of Resurrection Life.** The fruit of love. *vv. 5-13.*
5. **A Promise of Abiding Grace.** The Provision of love. *v. 14.*

55. **The Run for Life.***Gen. xix. 17.*

1. **The Question of Life or Death.** "Escape for thy life."
2. **The Question of Mercy or Judgment.** "Look not behind thee."
3. **The Question of Decision or Delay.** "Escape to the mountain."
4. **The Question of Looking Forward or Backward.** "Lest thou be consumed."

56. **Man's Way and God's Way.***Gen. iv. 1-26.*

1. **The Wicked Son.** "Hope disappointed." *vv. 1-16.*
2. **The Worthy Worshipper.** "Faith rewarded."
vv. 2-8.
3. **The Wilful Wanderer.** Love abused. *vv. 9-16.*
4. **The Worldly Family.** Flesh active. *vv. 17-24.*
5. **The Wise Witnesses.** Grace manifested.
vv. 24-26.

57. **Joseph a Type of Christ.***Gen. xxxvii.*

THERE are three special rays of light which shine from the life of Joseph: Joseph's life a type of our Lord's life and suffering; Joseph's experience a key to the providential dealings of God with His people; Joseph's character a guide to a real Christian life.

1. **Joseph was Hated by his Brethren.***Gen. xxxvii. 20.*

Christ rejected.

*John i. 11*2. **Joseph was Honoured by the Lord.** *Gen. xxxix.*

Christ honoured.

*Matt. iii. 17.*3. **Joseph was Sold as a Slave.** *Gen. xxxvii. 28.*

Christ sold.

*Matt. xxvi. 15.*4. **Joseph was Illtreated and Forsaken.***Gen. xxxix. 19, 20.*

Christ illtreated.

*Matt. xxvi. 67.*5. **Joseph was Placed with Criminals.** *Gen. xl. 3.*

Christ disgraced.

*Luke xxiii. 33.*6. **Joseph was Exalted and Honoured.***Gen. xlv. 41, 42.*

Christ exalted.

*Phil. ii. 9, 10.*7. **Joseph made himself known.***Gen. xlv. 4.*

Christ will reveal Himself.

Rev. i. 7.

A Sevenfold picture of Christ's Humility, Obedience, Grace, and Glory.

Joseph was a Link in the Providence of God, a Channel for the Blessing of God, and a Pledge for the Deliverance of God for His people. Every Christian can be this.

Joseph is a Pattern for all believers, and a Guide for our life and testimony; his Confidence in God, his Faithfulness to duty, and his Hope in the Word and Promise of God.

There were several marks of Joseph's Honour. The Rule, the Robe, the Ring, the Name, and the Chariots, all pointed to authority and power.

58. **Joseph the Saviour.***Gen. xli. 56.*

THE seven years of famine follow the seven years of plenty. So Mercy precedes Judgment, but Judgment will always follow Mercy. It was for the sake of God's people that Joseph was sent to Egypt, and that Corn was preserved. For the elect's sake the world exists.

1. **The Starving People.** "Seven years' dearth began to come."

2. **The Storehouse Opened.** "Joseph opened all the storehouses."

3. **The Supply all Ready.** "All countries came into Egypt."

The famine was sore, and the people cried to Pharaoh. Picture of this dreary, perishing world.

Jesus has opened the storehouse of Mercy, Grace, and Power; Mercy for the Sinner (1 Tim. i. 15, 16); Grace for the Saint (2 Cor. ix. 8); and Power for the Servant (Phil. iii. 10; Acts i. 8; Col. i. 29).

There is corn in Egypt, but needy ones must come to

Joseph; Joseph is the only one who can help them. Sinners are perishing, but Jesus lives. There is Bread enough and to spare, and it is all in Christ. All are welcome, but all must go straight to Jesus, and whatsoever He saith *do*.

59. Joseph the Ruler.

Gen. xlii. 1-36.

In this wonderful story of Joseph and his Brethren we see something of the steps in the great purposes of God with regard to Israel as a nation, the Egyptians as a people, and the Salvation of the world, by His sovereign grace. The whole story illustrates God's way of bringing sinners to Himself. There is the Iron link of affliction, the Silver link of redemption, and the Golden link of love, all working and drawing need and blessing together.

1. **The Good News.** "Corn in Egypt." *vv. 1-5.*
2. **The Great Moment.** "Interview with Joseph." *vv. 6-20.*
3. **The Guilty Conscience.** "We are verily guilty." *vv. 21-24.*
4. **The Guiding Hand.** "What is this?" *vv. 25-36.*
5. **The Grave Outlook.** "All these things are against me." *v. 36.*

It was a question of Life and Death: no time for looking at each other, and it was no use waiting. There was a Directness, Urgency, and Decision in Jacob's counsel. Just what is needed now. *Isa. lv. 1-7.*

Joseph knew his Brethren, and knew how to deal with them. Jesus knows all sinners, and sometimes tests them to Deepen Conviction, Strengthen Faith, and Prepare them for Blessing.

The Lord used this searching experience to touch their consciences, and the Lord does that now (*John xvi. 8-11*). He convicts of Sin (*v. 21*), Righteousness (*v. 22*), and Judgment (*v. 22*). This is the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing souls to Christ.

"All these things are against me." To sight, all seemed the opposite of blessing; this despairing remark was the fruit of fear. Faith says: "All things work together for good." *Rom. viii. 28.*

It was the language of unbelief. Faith sings: "God moves in a mysterious way."

It was the wrong interpretation. Faith interprets all in love.

When do things seem to be going wrong? When we look at events more than at the promises in the Word. When we look down at self, instead of looking up to Christ. When we seek to interpret God's dealings by sight and sense instead of by faith.

60. Joseph the Searcher.

Gen. xliiii. 1-34.

THE key to God's providential plans is necessary to understand His dealings with His people. This is always supplied by the *Word*. God's plan in providence is the outward expression of His purposes in grace.

1. **The Pressure of Famine.** "The famine was sore in the land." *vv. 1-10.*
2. **The Preparation for Help.** "Take of the fruit of the land." *vv. 11-14.*
3. **The Presence of Joseph.** "And stood before Joseph." *vv. 15-34.*
4. **The Provision of Love.** "Fill the men's sacks with food." *chap. xliv. 1.*

5. **The Painful Test.** "Cup was found in Benjamin's sack." v. 12.

6. **The Picture of Christ.** "I will be surety for him." chap. xliii. 9.

A cry for bread, but no corn without Benjamin; no salvation till all is surrendered to Christ.

Jacob did not seem to be in the secret of God's purpose, failed to understand God's plan of love; a misapprehension of the principles of grace; they did not yet know Joseph.

The steward was to give them good measure, and their money in their sacks. The provisions of grace in Jesus are full, free, and for whosoever. Isa. lv. 1.

Judah is a picture of Jesus in His office, power, and work for us.

Judah became a Surety. Jesus has taken the responsibility for us. Heb. vii. 25.

Judah became a Mediator. Jesus is the one Mediator.

1 Tim. ii. 5, 6.

Judah opened the way of blessing. Jesus is the way of life.

John xiv. 6.

61. Joseph the Brother.

Gen. xlv. 1-28.

THERE were three things which prevented Jacob and his sons knowing the living Joseph and his power and glory in Egypt—*Distance, Withholding Benjamin, and the Presence of the Egyptian.* Any sin or worldliness will prevent the soul from the possession of peace in Jesus.

1. **The Reconciliation.** "Joseph could not refrain himself." v. 1-4.

2. **The Reflection.** "Now therefore be not grieved." v. 5-8

3. **The Report.** "Haste ye, and go up to my father." v. 9.

4. **The Reassurance.** "Moreover he kissed all his brethren." vv. 14, 15.

There was a threefold Revelation.

A Revelation of Guilt. It filled their hearts and closed their mouths.

A Revelation of Grace. "I am Joseph—come near."

A Revelation of Kinship. "I am Joseph your brother."

Jesus has a brother's love, sympathy, and grace.

The reflection of the past was not pleasant for them, but Joseph hastened to put them into the secret of the Purposes of God, the Providence of God (v. 5), the Purpose of God (v. 7), and the Power of God (v. 8).

Haste ye; go and say—say what? "Joseph is alive." This is the message of the Gospel: "*Jesus is alive.*"

1 Cor. xv. 20.

Jacob received the tidings about Joseph as many do the Gospel of Christ: first he doubted, then he believed, afterwards he decided and went.

Joseph kissed his brethren, and talked with them all. So Jesus is constantly assuring us of His Love, by the Touch of His Spirit, by the Light of His Word, by the Privilege of Prayer, and by the Refreshings of His Grace. There is Personal Communion, Special Fellowship, and General Privilege (vv. 14, 15).

Jesus talking to the Sinner means Life. John iv. 27.

Jesus talking to the Saved one means Light.

John ix. 37.

Jesus talking to the Saint means Love.

Luke xxiv. 32.

Jesus talking to the Servant means Lustre, Glory.

Matt. xvii. 3.

62. **Joseph the Friend.***Gen. xlv. 16-20.*

THERE is nothing like having a friend at Court, and Joseph's brethren found this out in Egypt. And every believer in Jesus knows the value of the personal friendship of Christ, not only as Saviour, but as his life-power and preservation.

1. **Joseph was a Representative Friend.***Gen. xlv. 16-20.*

All Pharaoh's favour was manifested through Joseph.

So Christ appears for us in Heaven. *Heb. ix. 24; vii. 25.*

All our prayers, praises, services acceptable through Him.

*1 Tim. ii. 5.*2. **Joseph was a Thoughtful Friend.** *Gen. xlv. 21-24.*

Joseph seemed to think of everything—wagons, provisions, etc.

So Jesus, our Friend, thinks of all for us. *Phil. iv. 19.*

3. **Joseph was a Living Friend.** *Gen. xlv. 25-28.*

What a glad message, "Joseph is yet alive." *v. 26.*

This meant life, blessing, and future glory for Jacob's family.

Jesus, our Friend, is yet alive, and this means Life (*John xiv. 19*), Blessing (*Heb. vii. 25*), and Glory for us (*Col. iii. 4*).

4. **Joseph was a Loving Friend.** *Gen. xlvi. 28-30.*

He had a deep and enduring affection for his father and brethren.

The Love of Jesus is deep, strong, and abiding.

*Jer. xxxi. 3; John xiii. 1.*5. **Joseph was a Faithful Friend.** *Gen. xlvi., xlvii.*

Joseph was ready to welcome them in Egypt, to own them before Pharaoh, and give them possessions. So Jesus is ready to own us as brethren, welcome us home, and enrich us for ever in Heaven.

*Heb. ii. 11.*63. **Joseph the Prince.***Gen. xlvi., xlvii.*

THERE was a remarkable combination of gifts and graces in Joseph. He had the dignity and faith of Abraham, the purity and power of Isaac, and the warm heart and affection of Jacob. But in Christ the Holy Spirit dwelt in all His fulness without measure.

Jesus, like Joseph, is in possession of all, and able to enrich us with His grace and glory for ever.

1. **He Saves Life.***Gen. xlvii. 25.*

And they said, "Thou hast saved our lives."

Jesus saves Life.

*John iii. 14-16; v. 24, 25.*2. **He Sustains Life.***Gen. xlvii. 12.*

"And Joseph nourished his father and his brethren."

Christ is the Bread of Life (*John vi. 35*); Water of Life (*John iv. 14*); Light of Life (*John viii. 12*); Resurrection Life (*John xi. 25, 26*); and Eternal Life (*John xiv. 19*).

3. **He Gave them an Inheritance.***v. 27.*

And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt.

Christ has willed, purchased, and given us an inheritance.

*Heb. ix. 15, 16; Eph. i. 11, 14.*4. **He Rewarded the Diligent.***v. 6.*

"Any men of activity." Christ calls and rewards the diligent.

*1 Cor. xv. 58; Heb. vi. 10.*5. **He Supplied Seed for the Sower.***v. 23.*

So Jesus has given us the Word, the Seed of life.

*1 Pet. i. 23.*6. **He Constrained them to Willing Service.** *v. 25.*

So Christ constrains His servants by His love.

*2 Cor. v. 14.*7. **He Presented His People to the King.** *vv. 1-10.*

So the Lord will present all His people in that glory.

Jude 28.

64. **The Devil in Church.***Mark i. 21-28.*

THE Life of the Lord Jesus was full of Active Service, and the Gospel of Mark gives us the key words to His busy life—*Straightway, Immediately, and Forthwith.* Christ's was a spirit-filled Soul, a spirit-filled Life, and a spirit-filled Service.

1. **The Unfortunate Man.** "A man with an unclean spirit."

2. **The Malicious Enemy.** "Let us alone."

3. **The Mighty Saviour.** "Come out of him."

4. **The Unspeakable Blessing.** "He came out of him."

A man possessed with the devil in the Synagogue. What a sad experience! a man made for God possessed by the devil. Man was intended to be a house for Habitation, a Temple for Worship, a Palace for Glory, and a Possession for Use, all for God.

The Devil in Church; he is often there. The Devil's Creed: "Jesus of Nazareth"; "The Holy one of God." The Devil's prayer—"Let us alone." The Devil's behaviour: Jesus rebuked him for brawling—"Hold thy peace." The Devil's defeat: "He came out of him."

It was a threefold power manifested by Jesus: the Power of Sympathy, the Power of Restraint, and the Power of Deliverance.

65. **Seven Marks of Power.***Mark ii. 1-12.*

1. **The Power of Truth.** "And He preached the Word."

2. **The Power of Sympathy.** "Bringing one sick," etc.

3. **The Power of Sin.** "A bed wherein the sick of the palsy."

4. **The Power of Christ.** "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

5. **The Power of Prejudice.** "Who can forgive sins but God?"

6. **The Power of Faith.** "And immediately."

7. **The Power of Testimony.** "We never saw it on this fashion."

The Word of Christ Attracts, Instructs, and Saves.

There are four great powers of love—*Sympathy, Unity, Faith, and Perseverance.*

Healthlessness, Helplessness, and Hopelessness.

The Lord Jesus has a Quick Eye, Warm Heart, and a Living Word.

This poor man Trusted Christ's Word, Believed His Love, and Obeyed His Command.

The grand result was, the Enemy was Silenced, the Man Healed, and God Glorified.

Pardon, Healing, and Power: this threefold blessing every soul receives at conversion, and like this healed man is able to *walk* and testify to the power of Jesus to save.

66. **Stand Forth, and Stretch Forth.***Mark iii. 1-5.*

THE presence and grace of Christ was a great attraction for poor sufferers, and how happy the meeting between helpless man and the all powerful Saviour! What a joy to this poor man in the synagogue to be healed and blessed! Yet there were wicked men angry because Jesus healed on the Sabbath day. They thought more of the day than the blessing. Note:

1. **The Withered Hand.** "A man . . . with a withered hand."

2. **The Wicked Watchers.** "That they might accuse Him."

3. **The Warm Heart.** "And He saith to the man, Stand forth."

4. **The Word of Power.** "Stretch forth thine hand."

5. **The Willing Response.** "And he stretched it out."

The hand is the Symbol of Skill, Power, Fellowship, and Usefulness; if withered it is useless, but if there were no withered hearts there would be no withered hands in a spiritual sense. Jesus is the great Healer of hearts and hands too.

"Stand forth" as a confession of need.

"Stretch forth" as a confession of faith.

"Go forth" as an evidence of power.

67. **The Life-Boat Crew.**

Mark iv. 35-41.

"Let us pass over unto the other side."

The Christian life is a passage from one side to another, in more respects than one. It is a passage from—

Death into Life. The Holy Spirit is the power for this.

Satan to God. The Word is the guide.

World to Christ. Faith is the grace.

Earth to Heaven. Christ is the Pilot.

1. **The Ship.** A Picture of the Church.
2. **The Storm.** A Picture of our Experience.
3. **The Saviour.** A Picture of our Captain.
4. **The Sailors.** A Picture of Christians.
5. **The Safety.** A Picture of our Security.

The Church, like this Ship, is launched upon the Sea of Time, equipped with tackling Sails of Grace, Compass of Truth, Cable of Faith, Anchor of Hope, and Cords of Love. It has also the best of Captains—the Lord Jesus Christ, and is bound for the other Side.

Storms are sure to come. There is Overwhelming Trouble, Overpowering Temptation, Overcoming Opposition, and Overtaking Persecution.

There are three features of the great Master here: His Human Nature—He was Asleep; His Divine Nature—the Sea Obeyed Him; His Words of Grace—"Peace, be still."

68. **The Demontiac.**

Mark v. 1-20.

DURING the time of our Lord's ministry Satan seems to have had great power over the bodies of men. Perhaps it was the manifestation of his intense hatred to Christ. This is a very sad case, but Christ cast the devil out, and gave the man peace and blessing.

1. **The Possessed Demontiac.** "With an unclean spirit." v. 2.

2. **The Power of Christ.** "Come out of the man." v. 8.

3. **The Peculiar Prayer.** "Send us into the swine." v. 12.

4. **The Peace of the Man.** "In his right mind." v. 15.

5. **The Practical Gratitude.** "He told how great things." v. 20.

This poor man had his dwelling among the dead; he hurt himself; no man could tame him; he felt the foretastes of hell. A picture of the unsaved sinner in the power of the devil.

There were two influences at work—one drawing him to Jesus, the other making him say what was not true.

Jesus manifested His Love to the Man, His Power over Satan, and His Grace to Save.

The man in his right mind wanted to be with Jesus, but his friends at home had the first claim upon him. Jesus sent him home to testify for Him.

69. **Be not afraid, only Believe.**

Mark v. 21-43.

ONE of the greatest troubles in this life is to witness our children suffer and die, and the only wise thing to do with them is to take them to Jesus in prayer. At His feet is the place of Relief from Trouble, Blessing in Life, and Deliverance from Death.

1. **The Father's Trouble.** "My little daughter," etc. v. 23.
2. **The Father's Trial.** "A certain woman." v. 25.
3. **The Father's Trust.** "Only believe." v. 35.
4. **The Father's Triumph.** "The damsel arose and walked." v. 42.

Three things interesting about this child: she was an Only daughter, Only 12 years of age, and at the Point of death. This was a great trouble for the father.

The best thing to do with our troubles is to take them to Jesus, we shall find Him Willing, Able, and Ready to help us.

True faith is Tested faith, but it is Triumphant faith. The ruler believed Jesus must Lay His hands on the child; the woman believed if she could only Touch His garments she would be healed; the nobleman believed if Jesus would only Speak the word it would be enough; and they all received blessing, "according to our faith!"

70. **Locked Doors Opened.**

Mark vii. 31-37.

"WHO went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him" (Acts x. 38). Such is the testimony of the Holy Ghost to the word and work of the Lord Jesus.

1. **A Token of Sympathy.** "And they bring unto Him." v. 32.
2. **A Trial of Affliction.** "One that was deaf," etc. v. 32.
3. **A Touch of Power.** "And put His fingers," etc. v. 33.
4. **A Trust Imposed.** "Tell no man." v. 36.
5. **A Thankful Testimony.** "Done all things well." v. 37.

Sympathy for others is a real Fruit of Grace, a Copy of Christ, and a Power for Service, and is manifested here in Right Feeling, Active Love, and Earnest Prayer.

How sad! the two great avenues of the mind closed—the ear to let in the truth, the tongue to tell it out. Therefore there is no response to God and no testimony for God.

See the Tenderness of Jesus: "He took him aside."

The Touch of Jesus: "He touched his tongue."

The Sympathy of Jesus: "He looked up and sighed."

The Blessing of Jesus: "He said, Be opened."

The Testimony to Jesus: "He hath done all things well."

71. **Darkness, Dawn, and Daylight.**

Mark viii. 22-26.

THE coming of the Lord Jesus to any place or people always means blessing, and when we hear of the spiritually

Blind receiving Sight, the Lame Walking, and the Deaf Hearing, we know Jesus is visiting the place.

"The Great Physician now is near,
The sympathising Jesus."

1. **The Darkness.** "They bring a blind man." v. 22.
2. **The Dawn.** "I see men as trees walking." v. 24.
3. **The Daylight.** "Saw every man clearly." v. 25.

A Blind man with his Body dark, the World dark, the Path dark, and the Future dark. All dark. How sad! A type of the Sinner with his Soul dark with Sin, Life dark with Indifference, Path dark with Uncertainty, and the Future dark with Fear.

Jesus Separates His own from the crowd, Touches them with His power, Lets in His light, and Sends them away rejoicing.

The healed man saw the Man of Grace clearly. He saw his Helpful Friends clearly, and he saw his Way Home clearly. So in spiritual sight we see Jesus. We see things in their proper Relationship, and we can see our way Home clearly.

72. Ready-made Coats.

1. **The Ready-made Coat.** SALVATION.
Gen. iii. 21.
2. **The Seamless Coat.** RIGHTEOUSNESS.
John xix. 23.
3. **The Coloured Coat.** GRACE.
Gen. xxxvii. 3.
4. **The Fireproof Coat.** PROTECTION.
Dan. iii. 21, 27.
5. **The Active Service Coat.** SERVICE. *Acts ix. 39.*

73. Salvation is of the Lord.

Gen. vii. 1-24.

1. **The Call of Grace.** "Come thou into the ark." v. 1.
2. **The Obedience of Faith.** "And Noah went in." v. 7.
3. **The Security of Love.** "And the Lord shut him in." v. 16.
4. **The Only Hope.** "Noah *only* remained alive." v. 24.

74. Special Points of Experience.

Isa. vi. 1-11.

1. **Then of Conviction.** "Then said I, Woe is me." v. 5.
2. **Then of Conversion.** "Then flew one of the seraphims." v. 6.
3. **Then of Consecration.** "Then said I, Here am I." v. 8.
4. **Then of Concern.** "Then said I, Lord, how long?" v. 11.

75. Hope, or no Hope.

EVERYTHING connected with our eternal well-being depends mainly on two things: Christ's work For us, and Christ's work In us. Our Pardon, Peace and Position before God depend upon Christ's work For us. Our Purity, Progress, and Power depend upon Christ's work In us. The one is accomplished by His Atonement, the other by His Spirit and grace. So Christ Himself is our Hope for everything. In the light of eternity it is a question of Hope, or no Hope.

1. **No Hope.** *Eph. ii. 12.*
"Having no Hope, and without God in the world."
Spiritual Death, Darkness and Despair. *Eph. ii. 1, 2.*

- 2. Living Hope.** *Col. i. 27.*
 "Christ in you the Hope of glory."
 Living, Loving, and Lasting
1 Pet. i. 3; Col. i. 27; Col. i. 5.
- 3. Sure Hope.** *Heb. vi. 19.*
 Sure, Certain, and Supporting. *Heb. vi. 18.*
- 4. Purifying Hope.** *1 John iii. 3.*
 It brings Peace, Purity, and Power.
 "Every man that hath this Hope in him purifieth himself."
- 5. Eternal Hope.** *Titus iii. 7.*
 "Heirs according to the Hope of Eternal Life."
 Enriching, Enfolding, Enduring

76. Reconciliation.*2 Cor. v. 18-21*

- 1 Ministry of Reconciliation** The Gospel. *v. 18.*
- 2 Means of Reconciliation.** Work of Christ. *v. 19.*
- 3. Messengers of Reconciliation** Ambassadors for Christ. *v. 20*
- 4 Moment of Reconciliation.** Now. *v. 20.*
- 5. Manifestation of Reconciliation.** Righteousness. *v. 21.*

77. Happy Deliverance.*Ps. xl. 2, 3.*

- 1. Sorrow.** In the horrible pit. **HELPLESSNESS.**
- 2. Salvation.** He brought me up. **HOPE.**
- 3. Safety.** Set my feet upon a rock. **HOLINESS.**
- 4. Song.** Put a new song in my mouth. **HAPPINESS**
- 5. Service.** Many shall see it and fear.
HELPING OTHERS

78. Christ is our Hope.

- 1. Christ is the One Hope** set before us.
SALVATION. *Heb. vi. 18.*
- 2. Christ is the Living Hope** to cheer us.
LIFE. *1 Pet. i. 3.*
- 3. Christ is the Pure Hope** to inspire us.
POWER. *Col. i. 27.*
- 4. Christ is the Bright Hope** to attract us.
LIGHT. *Titus ii. 13.*
- 5. Christ is the Heavenly Hope** laid up for us.
GLORY. *Col. i. 5.*
- 79. Seven Bright Links in the Chain of Grace.**
2 Cor. v. 1-20.

- 1. The New Nature.** New creation. *v. 17.*
- 2. The New Standing.** In Christ. *v. 17.*
- 3. The New Life.** Not self, but Christ. *v. 15.*
- 4. The New Motive.** Love of Christ. *v. 14.*
- 5. The New Path.** Not sight, but faith. *v. 7*
- 6. The New Service.** Ambassadors for Christ. *v. 20*
- 7. The New Home.** Heaven. *v. 1.*

80. Bible Pictures of the Soul.

- 1. Soul in its Creation.** Made in the image of God.
Gen. i. 26; ii. 7.
- 2. Soul in its Sin.** Soul that sinneth shall die.
Ezek. xviii. 4; Rom. ii. 9.
- 3. Soul in its Redemption.** By the Blood of Christ.
Lev. xvii. 11; 1 Pet. i. 19.
- 4. Soul in its Salvation.** By grace ye are saved.
Eph. ii. 8.
- 5. Soul in its Destruction.** Tribulation, etc.
Rom. ii. 9

81. **The Great Question and Answer.***Acts xvi. 29-34.*

1. **Sinner Awakened.** "Came trembling." v. 29.
2. **Sinner Enquiring.** "What must I do?" v. 30.
3. **Sinner Directed.** "Believe on the Lord," etc. v. 31.
4. **Sinner Saved** "Rejoiced, believing." v. 34.

82. **Five Big Bundles.**

THESE are not Bundles of Clothes, nor Bundles of Rags, nor Bundles of Luggage, but Bundles of Blessing. Let us unpack them and examine the treasure.

1. **The Bundles of Money.** ANXIETY. *Gen. xlii. 3-5.*
2. **The Bundle of Myrrh.** JESUS. *Song of Sol. i. 13.*
3. **The Bundle of Mercy.** LIFE. *1 Sam. xxv. 29.*
4. **The Bundle of Sticks.** BLESSING. *Acts xxviii. 3.*
5. **The Bundle of Tares.** DEATH. *Matt. xiii. 30.*

In this case these Bundles of Money were Evidences of Grace; they are not always so. These were also loadstones to draw Joseph's brethren back to him. The goodness of God should lead men to repentance.

The Bundle of Myrrh speaks of the Preciousness, Riches, and Sweetness of Christ. *2 Pet. ii. 7.*

Saved Souls are bound up in the Bundle of Divine life, United life, and Eternal life. There are three Bands round this Bundle—Divine Love, Divine Life, and Divine Power.

Rom. viii. 35-39; John x. 28; xiv. 19.

This Bundle of Sticks may represent every-day events: the Viper, the Dangers, the Shake of the hand, our efforts to cast off the evil, and the Protection, God's Mercy and Goodness in the midst of all.

The Tares will be bound for Judgment; the Wheat for Glory.

83. **Conversion.***Matt. xviii. 3.*

"EXCEPT ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." There are three places in the New Testament where the word *except* appears very significantly: Luke xiii. 3-5; John iii. 3; Matt. xviii. 3.

1. **The Need of Conversion.** DEPRAVITY.
2. **The Work of Conversion.** GRACE.
3. **The Fruit of Conversion.** LIFE.

The Need of Conversion is universal. "Ye must be born again," is the word of the Lord to all. Without this Divine blessing and power we cannot satisfy God for the *past*, please Him in the *present*, nor serve Him in the *future*.

The Work of Conversion is all of God. It is a Spiritual Change wrought in the heart and life by the Holy Spirit when the soul believes on Jesus. Repentance is a New Mind about God, Regeneration is a New Heart from God, and Conversion is a New Life for God.

The Fruit of Conversion is seen first in the Spirit, then in the Life, and then in the Testimony for Jesus. It will be the new spirit of humility, trust and obedience like the little child.

84. **Personal Questions.**

1. **The Searching Question.** Where art thou?
Gen. iii. 9.
2. **The Life Question.** How old art thou?
Gen. xlvii. 8.
3. **The Service Question.** To whom belondest thou?
2 Sam. xxx. 13.

4. **The Family Question.** Whose son art thou?
1 *Sam.* xvii. 58.
5. **The National Question.** Of what people art thou?
Jonah i. 8.

85. **Guilt and Grace.***Gen.* iii. 1-24.

1. **The Fall of Man.** Through Satan. *Gen.* i. 7.
2. **The Fear and Guilt.** Through Sin. *vv.* 8-10.
3. **The Favour of God.** Through Grace. *vv.* 9-15.
4. **The Fruit of Love.** Through Jesus. *v.* 21.
5. **The Forfeiture of Eden.** Through Failure of Man.
v. 24.

86. **The Prodigal Son.***Luke* xv. 11-24.

1. **His Wilfulness.** "Father, give me the portion."
v. 12.
2. **His Wandering.** "And took his journey."
v. 13.
3. **His Waste.** "And there wasted his substance."
v. 13.
4. **His Want.** "And he began to be in want."
v. 14.
5. **His Wickedness.** "Joined himself to a citizen."
v. 15.
6. **His Wisdom.** "When he came to himself."
vv. 17-21.
7. **His Welcome.** "But when he was a great way off."
vv. 20-24.

87. **Clothes or No Clothes.**

THERE is a great deal said in the Bible about Clothes; and the Dress of the Body is a picture of the Dress of the Soul; and COATS, ROBES, SHOES, etc., are some of the figures

used by the Holy Spirit to illustrate spiritual things. There are different kinds of clothes:—

1. **Old Clothes.** *Gen.* iii. 7.
2. **New Clothes.** *Phil.* iii. 9.
3. **No Clothes.** *Luke* viii. 27.

The Fig-leaf Aprons were Original Clothes, but not Sufficient (*Gen.* iii. 8); Natural clothes, but not Clean (*Zech.* iii. 3); Smart clothes, but Useless (*Isa.* xliv. 6); and Mended clothes, but made Worse (*Mark* ii. 21).

The New Clothes are really beautiful.

The Garments of Grace.—They Look well. *Isa.* lxi. 3.
The Garments of Salvation.—They Fit well. *Isa.* lxi. 10.
The Garments of Godliness.—They Wear well.
1 Cor. i. 30.

The Garments of Glory.—They never spoil.

Rev. vii. 14.

There are five characters without Clothes: The Careless man (*Matt.* xxii. 11, 12); The Unfortunate man (*Luke* viii. 27); The Self-deceived man (*Rev.* iii. 18); The Sleeping man (*Rev.* xvi. 15); The Lazy man (*Song* of Sol. v. 3).

88. **What Christ is to His People.***Isa.* xxxii. 1-3.

1. **A Hiding-place.** "A man shall be as an hiding-place."
SAFETY.
2. **A Refreshment.** "Rivers of water," etc.
PROVISION.
3. **A Rest.** "Shadow of a great Rock."
PEACE.
4. **A Ruler.** "A king shall reign."
POWER.

89. **Cannot.**

1. "Scripture **cannot** be broken."
John x. 35.
2. "God **cannot** lie."
Titus i. 2.

3. "Flesh and blood **cannot** inherit," etc. *1 Cor. xv. 50.*
4. "A corrupt tree **cannot** bring," etc. *Matt. vii. 18.*
5. "They **that are in** the flesh," etc. *Rom. viii. 8.*
6. "Except a **man be born** again," etc. *John iii. 3.*
7. "Himself He **cannot** save." *Matt. xxvii. 42.*

90. God's Nevers.

1. **Never breaks** His Covenant.
Judg. ii. 1; 2 Sam. xxii. 5; Isa. xlv. 3.
2. **Never suffers** the righteous to be moved.
Ps. lv. 22; cxxi. 3; cxxv. 2; 2 Tim. ii. 19.
3. **Never leaves** nor forsakes them.
Heb. xiii. 5; Matt. xxviii. 20; Gen. xxvii. 15.
4. **Never permits** them to be overcome.
Prov. x. 30; Isa. xxvi. 3, 4; xli. 10; Rom. viii. 37.
5. **Never lets them** be ashamed.
Joel ii. 26, 27; Ps. lxxi. 1; 2 Tim. i. 12.
6. **Never allows them** to perish.
John x. 28; vi. 35; xi. 26; Jude 24, 25.
7. **Never shall His Kingdom** be destroyed.
Dan. ii. 44; 2 Pet. i. 10, 11; Heb. xii. 28.

91. We will not Come.

John v. 40.

THE Words of the Lord Jesus are sometimes Words of Command, Warning, and Invitation; but these are Words of Complaint, "Ye will not come to me."

1. **The Sinner's great Need.** "Life."
2. **The Sinner's great Supply.** "Christ."
3. **The Sinner's great Opportunity.** "Come."
4. **The Sinner's great Folly.** "Will not come."

It is not Reformation the sinner needs, but Regeneration;

not merely Longing and Wishing, but Life. The Life of Grace, Goodness and Glory, only in Christ.

John xx. 3; iii. 3.

Spiritual Life, Resurrection Life, and Eternal Life, are all in Jesus. *Gal. ii. 20; Phil. iii. 10; 1 John v. 11.*

Jesus Waits, Jesus Invites, and Jesus Complains, and yet sinners do not come. *John vi. 37; v. 24, 40.*

No Light, no Life, no Love, no Hope, without Christ.

John iii. 36.

"A Scotch lassie came to the inquiry room, and the minister talked with her and said, 'Young woman, you go home and read the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah,' and the Scotch girl threw up her hands and said, 'I cannot read, I cannot pray: *Jesus, take me as I am.*' And Jesus did take her as she was, and saved her at once."

92. Grace and Truth.

"No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him." *John vi. 44.*

"No man cometh unto the Father but by Me."

John xiv. 6.

"No man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." *1 Cor. xii. 3.*

1. **The Election of Grace.** *John vi. 44.*

2. **The Way of Life.** *John xiv. 6.*

3. **The Power of God.** *1 Cor. xii. 3.*

There is no Conviction of Sin, no Sense of Need, no Saving Faith, and no Life, without the grace of God. But there are three drawing powers in operation: the Spirit of God, Love of God, and Gospel of Christ. *John xvi. 13-15; Jer. xxxi. 3; John xii. 32; Song of Sol. i. 4.*

There is no Way to God nor heaven but by Jesus Christ.

He is the *Way* by His Atonement, the *Truth* by His Word, and the *Life* by His Spirit. This settles the Sin question, the Peace question, and the Life question.

To call Jesus Lord by the Holy Ghost is to acknowledge Him as the Divine Lord (John xx. 28); as the Living Lord (Acts ix. 5, 6); as the Present Lord (Matt. xiv. 30, xv. 25; John ix. 24); and as the Coming Lord (Rev. xxii. 19).

93. God's Five Alls.

BRITAIN'S Five Alls are well known: The Queen Rules All; the soldier Fights for All; the lawyer Pleads for All; the minister Prays for All; and John Bull Pays All. That is all very well in its way, but in the New Testament the Lord tells us of five Alls which concern each one of us personally.

1. All are ruined through sin. "All have sinned."
Rom. iii. 23.
 2. All are redeemed by Jesus. "A ransom for all."
1 Tim. ii. 6.
 3. All are saved who believe. "All that believe."
Acts xiii. 38, 39.
 4. All our need supplied. "All our need."
Phil. iv. 19.
 5. All will be judged for opportunities. "We must all appear."
2 Cor v. 10; Acts xvii. 31.
- Man has sinned away the glory of God's image, come short of glorifying God in life and service, and unless saved by Jesus will come short of the glory of His presence.
- Man is redeemed by the Lord Jesus Himself. He gave, not His riches, prayers, nor tears only, but "He gave Himself." nothing less than this would save us.

Pardon, Peace, Purity, and Power, are the fruit of this Redemption.

Daily Food, Daily Strength, and Daily Grace, are included.

The Sinner will be judged for his Sins; the Saint for his Service; but not at the same time.

2 Cor. v. 10; Rev. xx. 12.

94. The First Miracle.

John ii. 1-11.

THIS Miracle was a sign of the Ministry, Mission, and Mercy of Jesus.

1. The Secret of Social Joy. The presence of Jesus.
vv. 1, 2.
2. The Surest way of Help. Tell Jesus. *vv. 3, 4.*
3. The Simplest condition of Blessing. Obeying Jesus. *v. 5.*
4. The Sacred Art of Service. Helping Jesus.
vv. 6, 7.
5. The Silent power of Christ. Water turned into wine. *vv. 8, 9.*
6. The Symbol of Spiritual Blessing. Good wine last. *v. 10.*
7. The Sign of deeper truth. Manifested glory.
v. 11.

What Christ did in nature *then*, and what He is doing in grace *now*, He is going to do in the whole world *soon*, until the whole universe is full of the glory of the Lord.

The pleasures of sense surfeit, and do not satisfy; the pleasures of Christ satisfy, and do not surfeit; grace makes our social joys pure, bright, and real.

To the sinner, Christ's word is "*Come.*"

To the saint, Christ's word is "*Follow.*"

To the servant, Christ's word is "Go work."
Satan gives the best first—sin, pleasure, and excitement;
then sorrow, disgrace, and death.

Jesus always gives the worst first—the cross, trial, and
test; but afterwards, rest, joy, glory.

95. A Nobleman's Faith.

John iv. 46-54.

1. **Seeking Faith.** "He went unto Him." v. 47.
2. **Tested Faith.** "Except ye see signs," etc. v. 48.
3. **Progressive Faith.** "The man believed the Word." v. 50.
4. **Perfectd Faith.** "And he went his way." v. 50.
5. **Fruitful Faith.** "Himself believed and his whole house." v. 53.

Riches and high position cannot prevent sickness and death, and youth is no guarantee against death; but it is well if our trouble leads us to Jesus.

96. The Great Physician.

John v. 1-15.

Jesus saw the World as a Wilderness Waste, through which Souls were Wandering hopelessly to Eternity.

Matt. ix. 36.

He saw it as a great Harvest-field, Ripe and Ready to Reap for God, and said, "Pray ye," etc. *Matt. ix. 38.*

And He also saw it as a great Hospital, in which thousands of poor suffering ones were Sick and Helpless and Ready to die; and He came as the great Physician to heal and save the needy.

1. **The Hospital.** "Bethesda having five porches." v. 2.
 2. **The Patients.** "A great multitude of impotent folk." v. 3.
 3. **The Physician.** "When Jesus saw him." v. 6.
 4. **The Cure.** "The man was made whole." v. 9.
 5. **The Testimony.** "Told that it was Jesus." v. 15.
- There are three important words in connection with this miracle—*Whosoever*, *Whensoever*, and *Whatsoever*.
The poor sufferers were *Withered*, *Waiting*, and *Weary*.
The Physician had a quick eye, clear knowledge, warm heart, loving word, and a simple prescription (Arise!), and a mighty power.
This poor man *Waited* long, was made *Whole*, and then *Walked* in health, *Worshipped* in the temple, and *Witnessed* for Jesus in gratitude and joy.

97. Feeding the Multitude.

John vi. 1-15.

THE best way to get the Light and Lessons of this miracle is to join the crowd. Keep our eyes upon Jesus. What He said and did will give us the key to the practical truth.

1. **The Weary Crowd.** "A great multitude followed Him." v. 2.
2. **The Wonderful Saviour.** "Jesus . . . saw a great company." v. 5.
3. **The Willing Workers.** His disciples. v. 11.
4. **The Wise Economy.** "Gather up the fragments." v. 12.

The crowds in Scripture are interesting studies: restless, hungry, weary, anxious crowds.

Workers with Jesus must have their faith tested, minds instructed, hearts warmed, hands busy, and each his own basket for service. There were twelve disciples and twelve baskets.

98. **An Experience of Fear and Faith.**

John vi. 16-21.

THE experience of the Apostles was full of shifting scenes—difficulties on land, and storms at sea. All had to be faced as followers of the Lord Jesus, to try their faith, to test their love, and perfect their education as witnesses of the Lord Jesus. This was a special experience.

1. **It was a time of Darkness.** "And it was now dark." v. 17.

2. **It was a time of Danger.** "And the sea arose." v. 18.

3. **It was a time of Distress.** "And they were afraid." v. 19.

4. **It was a time of Discovery.** "It is I; be not afraid." v. 20.

5. **It was a time of Deliverance.** "Then they willingly received Him." v. 21.

Darkness is the symbol of sin. Sin upon the soul makes it dark; the veil upon the heart makes it dark; and the wrath of God abiding on the sinner makes him dark.

There are all kinds of Winds and storms for the followers of Christ—the rough Wind of persecution, the sharp Wind of sorrow, the bitter Wind of bereavement, and the strong Wind of opposition.

Fear blinds our minds, blunts our faith, and fills us with alarm; and superstitious fear is the worst of all fear. There is the star of promise and hope in the darkest

experience. We cannot be lost, for He has undertaken to land us safely in the glory. There is no experience so dark that He cannot see through. Let us watch and pray, toil and trust, for Jesus is always near.

The experiences of the disciples were pictures of our Christian life to-day.

The Sea is a Type of the World.

The Ship is a Picture of the Church.

The Journey is a Symbol of our Lives.

The Storm Illustrates our Experience.

The Deliverance a Guide to our Salvation.

The Safe Landing Points to our Landing in Glory, and Jesus our Captain is with us always to Cheer, to Comfort, and to Save. He is constantly saying to us:—

"I'll stand by you till the morning;
I've come to save you; do not fear."

99. **"One thing I know."**

John ix. 25.

THIS is one of the many object-lessons of grace in the New Testament—Christ opens the eyes of the spiritually blind that they may see His glory.

1. **The Man's Trouble.** "Born blind." v. 2.

2. **The Man's Trust.** "He went his way." v. 7.

3. **The Man's Trial.** Persecution. vv. 13-34.

4. **The Man's Testimony.** Simple, Sound, and Certain.

5. **The Man's Triumph.** He saw Jesus. vv. 35-38.

All are unfortunately born blind spiritually. Some are deluded and blind (2 Cor. iv. 3, 4); some are wilfully blind (John ix. 41); and some go into eternity blind.

Jesus saw this blind man, touched him by His power,

spoke words of love and grace to him, and gave him his sight. This is what Jesus is doing still by His Spirit and Word.

As soon as this poor man's eyes were opened he saw how the people hated Christ.

His neighbours questioned him, Pharisees abused him, his parents feared and forsook him, religious people turned him out, but Jesus found him, and comforted him.

This man gave a clear and unmistakable testimony to the power of Christ to heal and save.

It was Simple. "A man that is called Jesus," etc.

v. 11.

It was Sound. He told all he knew—a man, a Prophet.

It was Certain. "One thing I know," etc. v. 35.

It was Settling. "Will ye also be His disciples?" v. 27.

He brought the truth home to their own hearts.

Jesus Found him, Instructed him, and Blessed him.

100. Called Back.

John xi. 43, 44.

THE eleventh chapter of John is a great picture of the love, sympathy, and power of Jesus. The resurrection of Lazarus is a parable of spiritual life.

1. **The Death of Lazarus.** "Lazarus is dead."

v. 14.

2. **The Resurrection of Lazarus.** "He that was dead came forth."

v. 44.

3. **The Liberty of Lazarus.** "Loose him," etc. v. 44.

4. **The Communion of Lazarus.** "Lazarus was one of them."

John xii. 2.

5. **The Testimony of Lazarus.** Many believed on Jesus.

v. 11.

There are three cases of dead ones being raised to life by Jesus—an *only daughter*, an *only son*, and an *only brother*—showing Christ's power over death in its different stages. One was just dead (Mark v. 35), another was dead, and was carried out for burial (Luke vii. 12), and Lazarus was dead and buried four days (John xi. 39); but it is all the same to Jesus, a *word*, a *touch*, and a *call*, and immediately the dead live.

There are three things in Christ to call us into life, fellowship, and service: *Christ's Love*, *Christ's Life*, and *Christ's Liberty*.

101. Fellowship in Service.

John xxi. 1-15.

THREE times Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after His resurrection.

v. 14

The first was for Peace.

John xx. 19

The second was for Instruction.

John xx. 26

The third was for Commission.

John xxi. 4

This last manifestation was by appointment.

Matt. xxviii. 7-10.

1. **The Workers' Failure.** "That night they caught nothing."

v. 3.

2. **The Workers' Friend.** "Jesus stood on the shore."

v. 4.

3. **The Workers' Faith.** "They cast therefore."

v. 6.

4. **The Workers' Find.** "Multitude of fishes."

v. 6.

5. **The Workers' Fellowship.** "Come and dine."

v. 12.

By difficulty and disappointment Jesus has sometimes to rebuke our impatience, check our haste, and prepare us for greater service.

Jesus is always near to Watch us in sympathy, to

80 *A Box of Nails for Busy Workers*

Question us in love, to Cheer us by His words, and to Bless us with His grace; but we do not always see Him. Love Remembers, Love Recognises, and Love Interprets the Words and Ways of the Lord Jesus (*v.* 7). These obedient Workers found Christ near, fulness of blessing, and a Warm Welcome on the shore. So shall we if we will patiently Work and Wait.

102. **The Loss or Salvation of the Soul.**

Mark viii. 36, 37.

“WHAT shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” These are questions of unspeakable importance. The Soul is something distinct from the body, and is capable of living separately from the body in another world. It is that which lives and thinks and moves within. If the Soul is saved, all is saved; if the Soul is lost, all is lost.

1. **The Soul is in Danger** of being lost for ever.
2. **The Soul has been** redeemed, and may be saved.
3. **The Soul committed** to Christ is safe.
4. **The Soul lost cannot** be compensated by the whole world.

The Impenitent will be Lost (*Luke* xiii. 5); the Unregenerate will be Lost (*John* iii. 3); and the Neglector will be Lost (*Heb.* ii. 3).

The Redemption of the Soul by the Blood of Christ shows us God's great love for it, its great value, and the only thing that could redeem it.

There is no Meeting the Soul's Need apart from Christ.

Nothing to Cleanse it from sin, but His Blood.

Nothing to Clothe it, but His Righteousness.

Nothing to Satisfy its longing, but Himself.

CHAPTER IV

SELECTED NAILS IN MONTHLY PACKETS

103. **The Month and its Lessons.**

JANUARY.—The Cold Month.

JANUARY is the opening month of our civil year. Januarius was the name given to this month by the Romans, in honour of their god Janus. He was supposed to preside over all gates, doors, entrances, and avenues, and therefore a fit guardian for the opening gates of the New Year. Janus is always represented as having two faces—the one looking backward over the past, the other looking forward into the future—a very suggestive thought for every one who, through God's mercy, is allowed to pass into the New Year.

WHAT THE COLD TEACHES.

1. **Cold Atmosphere** proves God's faithfulness (*Gen.* viii. 22). Cold atmosphere in Nature is Healthy, in Grace is Hindering.

2. **Cold Weather** gives the sluggard a Chill (*Prov.* xx. 4). We must avoid the sluggard's Sleep (*Prov.* vi. 9); Sloth (*Prov.* vi. 6); and Shame (*Prov.* xx. 4).

3. **Cold Waters** meet the need of the thirsty (*Prov.* xxv. 25). The cold water of the Gospel—blessing and comfort (*Prov.* xxv. 25; *Jer.* xviii. 14; *Matt.* x. 42).

4. **Cold Refreshings** show the ministry of love (*Mark*

ix. 9, 41). Remember the Master's word. Refresh His saints and the Reward will be ours (Matt. x. 41).

5. **Cold Days** try our faith (2 Cor. ii. 27). The way to keep warm is to keep Christ's love burning in our hearts (2 Cor. v. 13, 14).

6. **Cold Nights** test our love (John xviii. 18). Peter's faith and love were cold, and fires of coal could not warm him, but the fire of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost did (Acts ii. 4).

7. **Cold Hearts** reveal our characters (Matt. xxiv. 12). Love in the heart is the great Thermometer of the Christian life and service, the Evidence of the Christian life, the Mainspring of obedience, and the Secret of true Service for God (1 John iii. 14; John xiv. 15; 1 Thess. i. 3-9; John xxi. 15-17).

The ancients called January the cold month, frosty month, and winter month, and this is generally what we find it to be; but the winter frost and snow speak as clearly to us of God's wisdom, goodness, and love as the warming brightness of the summer sunshine (Ps. cxlviii. 8).

A minister going to church one Lord's Day morning, when the weather was extremely cold, was overtaken by one of his neighbours, who, shivering, said to him, "It's very cold, sir." "Oh," replied the minister, "God is as good as His Word still." The other, not apprehending his drift, asked him what he meant. "Mean," he replied; "why, He promised about 3,000 years ago, and still He makes His Word good, that 'while the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest and cold and heat shall not cease.'"

104. FEBRUARY.—The Rainy Month.

FEBRUARY was the last month of the ancient Roman year, and the one during which they made their sacrifices of

expiation. Even in these dark days the people had a consciousness of guilt, and sought for something to put away their sins. It seems they had no knowledge of God's method of putting away sin, and therefore no knowledge of His pardon and peace.

February has been called the Whisper of the coming Spring, the Season of life and liberty for the early flowers, and the Time of rain, and thaw, and preparation for nature to awake out of sleep. The time when God "renews the face of the earth."

Ps. civ. 30; cxlvii. 16-18.

LESSONS FROM THE RAIN.

1. A Mark of God's Goodness.

Ps. cxlvii. 8; Matt. v. 45.

2. A Proof of God's Faithfulness.

Deut. xi. 14; Acts xiv. 17.

3. A Type of God's Word.

Isa. lv. 10.

4. A Sign of God's Blessing.

Lev. xxvi. 4.

5. A Picture of God's Grace.

Deut. xxxii. 2; Hos. x. 12.

6. A Token of God's Promise.

Ps. lxxii. 6; 2 Sam. xxiii. 4.

7. A Warning of God's Judgment.

Gen. vii. 4; Matt. vii. 25.

The Shining Sun, the Refreshing Rain, and the Fresh Air are all emblems of the Freeness, Fulness, and Fruitfulness of God's boundless love.

Bishop Trower once said, "You have seen the ground so hard and parched that it might almost be taken for rock, but the rain has come in gentle shower, 'He maketh it soft with the drops of rain,' and it receives into its bosom the seeds that shall bear fruit in due season. So many a hardened heart has been softened into penitence, and

penetrated by the heavenly doctrine. In due time, the 'good tidings of great joy' are the truths which fall upon the heart like showers on the mown grass and like the dew upon the tender herbs. Silently and gently the truth makes its way, when all else is hushed; it has a 'still small voice' to tell of mercy and hope. It comes from above. In the solemnity of Divine worship the heart is filled with freshness and power, and the signs of Divine life are seen in the fruits of a holy life."

105. MARCH.—The Windy Month.

THIS month was first called "March" by Romulus, the founder and first king of Rome, in honour of Mars, the idol-god of war. The Saxons called it Length month, because at this season of the year the days begin to lengthen, and other ancients called it Windy month, Spring month, and Budding month.

LESSONS FROM THE WIND.

1. A **Messenger**, obeying God's Word. *Ps. cxlviii. 8.*
2. A **Mystery**, illustrating Divine Grace. *John iii. 8.*
3. A **Quickener**, showing the Spirit's Work. *Ezek. xxxvii. 9.*
4. A **Blessing**, bringing forth Fruit. *S. of Sol. iv. 16.*
5. A **Servant**, doing the Lord's Will. *Matt. xiv. 24-32.*
6. A **Power**, pointing to God's Spirit. *Acts ii. 2.*
7. A **Punishment**, driving away the Wicked. *Ps. i. 4.*

All the seasons of the year, as they pass along, speak to us of the solemnities of life, the shortness of time, the opportunities for service, and the nearness of eternity, and each part of the year has a distinct call and lesson. The Spring says, "Be awake"; the Summer says, "Be active"; the Autumn says, "Be fruitful"; and the Winter says, "Be patient."

The ancient figure of the month of March is a very suggestive one. It is a man with a fierce aspect. In one hand almond blossoms, on his head a helmet, in his other hand a spade, and on his arm a seed basket. The lessons are very clear: they speak to us of Life, Labour, Love, and Hope. They seem to say to us, "Work, work, if you want to be *healthy*. Work, if you want to be *happy*. Work, if you want to be *helpful*. Work, if you want to be *holy*. Work, if you want to be *honoured*."

Church history opens, in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, with an account of a notable revival—a pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Ghost; and every other revival of the work of God has been by this Divine power. In the times of Luther and Huss, in the days of Wycliffe, Wesley, and Whitfield, the Holy Spirit roused, directed, and blessed every effort to the salvation of thousands of souls, and it is the great power now that is needed to sanctify the Church and save men's souls.

106. APRIL.—The Seed Month.

APRIL is the beginning of the new life of the year; the opening of Nature's treasures, and the budding of new mercies and blessing for the world. It is a fit emblem of the Spiritual Quickening by the Holy Spirit in the realm of grace, for all true conversion to God is really April in the soul. This month supplies us with innumerable Seed thoughts.

LESSONS FROM THE SEED.

1. **Living Seed.** A Picture of Life in the Soul. *Gen. i. 11; 1 John iii. 9.*
2. **Sowing Seed.** A Guide to Preaching the Gospel. *Ps. cxxvi. 6; Eccles. xi. 6.*
3. **Watered Seed.** A Help to Life and Labour. *Isa. lv. 6; 1 Cor. iii. 6-8.*

4. **Quickened Seed.** A Mark of the Spirit's Grace.
Luke viii. 15; *1 Pet.* i. 23.
5. **Abiding Seed.** A Sign of Eternal Life.
1 John iii. 9; *v.* 13.
6. **Scattered Seed.** A Measure of Earnest Service.
2 Cor. ix. 6; *Gal.* vi. 7, 8.
7. **Buried Seed.** A Hope of Resurrection Life.
1 Cor. xv. 36; *James* i. 7.

April is the Emblem of Youth. A Picture of Life. Nature Awakening out of Sleep. A Link between Winter and Summer. The Month of Buds and Blossoms, and a Messenger whispering Joy and Hope. A beautiful illustration of Grace in the Soul and Life of the Christian.

One day, the master of Lukman (an Eastern fabulist) said to him, "Go into such a field and sow barley." Lukman sowed oats instead. At the time of the harvest, his master went to the place, and seeing the oats, asked him, "Did I not tell you to sow barley here? Why, then, have you sown oats?" He answered, "*I sowed oats in the hope that barley would grow up.*" His master said, "What foolish idea is this? Have you ever heard of the like?" Lukman replied, "You yourself are constantly sowing in the field of the World the seeds of evil, and yet expect to reap in the resurrection day the fruits of virtue. Therefore I thought, also, I might get barley by sowing oats." The master was ashamed at the reply, and set Lukman free. How many are acting like Lukman's master, and need the slave's reproof. "Whatsoever a man soweth," etc. *Gal.* vi. 7.

"Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head."

107. **MAY.—The Flower Month.**

MAY is one of the sweetest months in the year. The Farewell to Winter, The Dawn of Summer, The Awakening time of Joy and Hope, and the Emblem of Youth. It is the Birth-month of Flowers.

The special features of the month are Flowers and Brightness.

LESSONS FROM THE FLOWERS.

1. **Wild Flowers.** A Lesson on Natural Life.
Ps. ciii. 15, 16.
2. **Spring Flowers.** An Illustration of Spiritual Life.
S. of Sol. ii. 11, 12.
3. **Garden Flowers.** A Picture of Developed Life.
S. of Sol. vi. 2, 3.
4. **Bible Flowers.** A Guide to Perfect Life.
S. of Sol. ii. 1.
5. **Coloured Flowers.** A Mark of Varied Life.
Isa. xxxv. 1, 2
6. **Beautiful Flowers.** An Image of Beautiful Life.
Matt. vi. 28, 29.
7. **Faded Flowers.** A Warning of the End of Life.
Job xiv. 2; *1 Pet.* i. 24.

The Ancients depicted May as a Youth clothed in a robe of white and green; crowned with a garland of roses, in one hand, a lute; and on the forefinger of the other, a nightingale is perched. A Picture of Life, Health, Beauty, Fragrance, and Song. All enjoyed in Christ in the atmosphere of grace, in the life of faith, and in the service of the Lord.

"Hymns of praise are ringing
Through the leafy woods,
Songsters, sweetly singing,
Warble, 'God is good';

Wake, and join the chorus,
 Man with soul endued;
 He, whose smile is o'er us—
 God, O God is good."

Over the triple doorways of the Cathedral of Milan there are three inscriptions spanning the splendid arches. Above one is carved a beautiful wreath of roses, and underneath is the legend, "All that which pleases is only for a moment." Over the other is sculptured a cross, and the words, "All that which troubles is but for a moment." Beneath the great central entrance in the main aisle is the inscription, "That only is which is eternal."

"There is a lesson in each flower,
 A story in each stream and bower;
 In every herb on which you tread
 Are written words which, rightly read,
 Will lead you from earth's fragrant sod
 To Hope, and Holiness, and God."

108. JUNE.—The Growth Month.

In this month the World is crowned with all kinds of life; and rich and varied are the objects of interest with which the face of the earth is renewed. The Herbs, the Grass, the Trees, and the Flowers, are Full of Freshness, Vigour, and Beauty. A faint reminder of Heaven's eternal summer. Seven Conditions of Growth: Natural and Spiritual.

1. **Life** —Power, or Christ Within Us.
Gal. ii. 10.
2. **Roots** —Nourishment, or Christ Beneath Us.
Prov. xii. 3; Deut. xxxiii. 27.
3. **Sap** —Vitality, or Christ Through Us.
John xv. 1, 2, and 4.
4. **Sunshine—Warmth**, or Christ Over Us.
Ps. lxxxiv. 4.
5. **Rain** —Refreshing, or Christ Upon Us.
Ps. lxxii. 6.

6. **Fresh Air—Breath**, or Christ Inspiring Us.
Job xxxiii. 4.
7. **Leaves** —Vigour, or Christ Invigorating Us.
Ps. cl. 6.

June is Nature rejoicing in the season of first-fruits—the Noontide of the year. Emblem of Manhood. The Half-way house on our annual journey. The Month of Flowers and Fruits. It is a season of Life, Activity, and Service. A Picture of Spiritual Opportunities and Work.

Christ revealed in us is LIFE. *Gal. i. 16.*
 Christ living in us, POWER. *Gal. ii. 20.*
 God glorified in us, FRUIT. *Gal. i. 24.*

THE CHRISTIAN IS A TREE OF LIFE AND FRUIT.

A Tree that is Planted (*Ps. i. 3; Is. lxi. 3*). With Roots in the Waters (*Jer. xvii. 8*). Branches in the Vine (*John xv. 1*). With Fulness of Sap (*Ps. civ. 16*). Leaves which Never Wither (*Ps. i. 3*). Blossoms Abundant (*Isa. lxxv. 2*), and Fruit in His Season (*Ps. i. 3*), full of Life, and Grace, and Fruit.

A gentleman was preaching in the open air; his subject was "Growth in Grace." At the close of the meeting a man approached him and said, "Our minister has been preaching some sermons on that subject, and I have been trying to grow in grace for a long time, but I find I do not succeed very well." The preacher pointing to a tree said, "Do you see that tree?" "Yes," was the reply. "Well, it had to be planted before it could grow. In like manner you must be rooted and grounded in Christ before you can begin to grow." The man understood the meaning and went away to find Christ, and soon he was saved and rooted in Christ, and brought forth fruit to His praise.

109. JULY.—The Summer Month.

JULY is generally one of the hottest months in the year,

and brings all kinds of seeds and life to perfection. An Emblem of the perfecting Grace of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the Faithful. The close of the 65th Psalm describes this month very nicely. "Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness, and Thy paths drop fatness," etc. "Yes, Earth proclaims His goodness *Infinite* and His Power *Divine*."

LESSONS FROM THE SUMMER.

1. **Summer Season.** A Token of God's Covenant.
Gen. viii. 22. FAITHFULNESS.
2. **Summer Weather.** A Sign of God's Care.
P. lxxiv. 16, 17. GOODNESS.
3. **Summer Life.** A Type of Spiritual Life.
Matt. xxiv. 32; *Jer.* xvii. 7, 8. POWER.
4. **Summer Fruit.** A Picture of Perfect Life.
2 Sam. xvi. 1, 2. GRACE.
5. **Summer Time.** A Reminder of Opportunities.
Prov. x. 5; *Rom.* xiii. 11. PATIENCE.
6. **Summer Days.** A Light to Seasons of Service.
Prov. xxx. 25. DILIGENCE.
7. **Summer Ended.** A Warning of Lost Privileges.
Jer. viii. 20. DESPAIR.

The Seasons are Books of God's Wisdom (*Ps.* xix. 1-4), Marks of God's Love (*Jer.* xxxi. 3; *Rom.* xi. 29), and Types of God's Grace (*Ps.* lxxxvi. 15; *2 Peter* iii. 9). The Brightness and Freshness of Summer life is a picture of happy Blossom and Beauty (*John* x. 10).

"July sunshine thrills the heart,
Bids its cares and pains depart,
Causes hope its lamps to light
In the darkness of life's night,
Whispers of the blessed band,
Safe within God's summer land."

There appeared to a beggar one day by the wayside a beautiful being, with her outstretched hands laden with treasures. As he gazed at her in stupid surprise, she glided past him; but she returned with her treasures still held out to him, and once more, with beseeching eyes, as if she would compel him to take what she offered, she passed slowly by and disappeared. She had no sooner gone than, as if waking from a dream, he hurried eagerly in the direction she had taken. He met a traveller, and said, "Have you seen a beautiful stranger, with her hands full of the very things I want, going along this road?" "Yes," replied the traveller; "her name is *Opportunity*. But once offered, and once refused, she never returns."

110. AUGUST.—The Harvest Month.

IN the old Roman Calendar August had but twenty-nine days. Julius Cæsar, in reforming the Calendar of his nation, extended it to thirty days, and took one from February, and added it to August. He did this, it is said, to perpetuate his gratitude for some special mercies he had experienced this month. Each month of the year bears some mark of special blessing, for which we can praise God. August tells us of God's goodness in the Harvest.

LESSONS FROM THE HARVEST.

1. **Harvest Promise.** A Cheer for the World.
Gen. viii. 22; *Ps.* i. 3.
2. **Harvest Hope.** A Call for the Labourer.
John iv. 35; *Jer.* v. 24; *James* v. 7.
3. **Harvest Time.** A Charge for the Christian.
Matt. ix. 37, 38; *Jer.* l. 15, 16.
4. **Harvest Fruits.** A Compensation for the Toiler.
Ps. cxxvi. 5; *Joel* iii. 13.

5. **Harvest Workers.** A Co-operation for the Worker.
Isa. xvii. 5; Matt. ix. 37; John iv. 37.

6. **Harvest Joy.** A Comfort for the Weary.
Isa. ix. 3; Ps. cxxvi. 6.

7. **Harvest Home.** A Consummation for the Hopeful.
Matt. xvii. 39; Rom. xiv. 15.

Blessings of the month of August are the Fulfilment of Promises of the Spring, the Increase of the Earth, and the Crowning Glory of Summer. It is the emblem of the time when believers shall be gathered into Christ's garner as sheaves of corn fully ripe. "The angel-reapers shall descend and Heaven cry 'Harvest Home.'"

"O Thou whose silent bounty flows,
To bless the sower's art
With gifts that ever claim for us
The Harvests of the heart;
If thus Thy goodness crown the year
What shall Thy glory be
When all Thy harvests, whitening here,
Are gathered home to Thee?"

A young man came to a man of ninety years of age and said to him, "How have you managed to live so long and be so well?" The old man took the young man to the orchard, and pointing to some large trees full of apples, said, "I planted those trees when I was a boy, and do you wonder that now I am permitted to gather the fruit of them?" We gather in old age what we plant in our youth. Sow to the wind and reap the whirlwind. Plant in early life the right kind of a Christian character, and you will eat luscious fruit in old age, and gather these harvest apples in eternity.

111. SEPTEMBER.—The Fruit Month.

SEPTEMBER is the time of the Ingathering of the fruits of the earth, the Golden Link between Summer and Winter,

the Season of Praise and Thanksgiving to the LORD of the Harvest for His constant Faithfulness and Love.

LESSONS FROM THE FRUIT.

1. **Fruit Trees.** A LIVING BLESSING.
Gen. i. 29; Eccles. ii. 5; Matt. vii. 17.
2. **Fruit Seasons.** A TIMELY BLESSING.
Matt. xxi. 41; 2 Sam. xvi. 1.
3. **Fruit Manifest.** A CHEERING BLESSING.
Deut. xxxiii. 14; Isa. xxviii. 4.
4. **Fruit Ripe.** A PERFECT BLESSING.
Acts xiv. 11; Matt. xiii. 20.
5. **Fruit Gathered.** A SECURED BLESSING.
Lev. xxiii. 39; Matt. iii. 12.
6. **Fruit Enjoyed.** A PRESENT BLESSING.
*Ps. lviii. 11 (R.V.); Prov. xii. 14; Gal. v. 22;
Rom. vi. 21, 22*
7. **Fruit Spoiled.** A LOST BLESSING.
Deut. xxviii. 39, 42; Matt. xxi. 19; Jude 12.

September, the Month of Fruit. The time of Hope's Fulfilment, when Sower and Reaper rejoice together, and the Summer's last Smile. The Emblems of the Afternoon of man's life, when the fruit of Wisdom and Grace should be manifest.

"The Rev. Dr. Franklin had on his signet ring for a device, a fruit-bearing tree with a motto from Ps. i. 3. When dying his son asked for a final word of counsel. The dying man whispered the word, 'Fruitful.'"

A farmer, who had turned his attention to the raising of fruit, said to a friend, as they sat at table, "I have cut down over fifty peach trees to-day." "Why is this?" "Because the fruit was not good. The peaches were too small." Afterwards, walking through the orchard, the

friend saw where the trees had stood, and also the spot where, after being cut down, they had been burned. This procedure brought to his mind at once the Saviour's parable of the fruitless Fig-tree. Oh! if God dealt with men as they deal with the trees in their orchards, what a fearful destruction of our race would ensue!

112. OCTOBER.—The Fading Month.

OCTOBER is the Eventide of Autumn, Herald of Winter, and Nature's calm decay. It is the time of Sowing seed, when the weather is cold and dry. Nature having perfected her seeds, her next care is to disperse them, reminding us that Seed-time and Harvest are always linked together, both in Nature and Grace. "For whatsoever a man soweth," etc. (Gal. vi. 7).

LESSONS FROM THE MONTH.

THINGS THAT FADE IN AUTUMN.

1. **The Year fades away.** A Voice to the Indifferent.
Ps. xc. 9; *Eph.* v. 14.
 2. **The Daylight fades away.** A Call to the Careless.
Ps. cxliv. 4; *John* ix. 4.
 3. **The Flowers fade away.** A Word to the Young.
Isa. xl. 7; *Job* xiv. 2.
 4. **The Summer Songs fade away.** A Note to the Trifling.
Eccles. xii. 4.
 5. **The Leaves fade away.** A Warning to the Vigorous.
Isa. lxiv. 6; *Ps.* i. 4.
 6. **The World fades away.** A Caution to the Worldling.
1 *John* ii. 17; 1 *Peter* iv. 7.
 7. **The Saints' Inheritance will never fade away.**
"Praise the Lord."
- Fleeting time and fading seasons call us to be awake

and active. The Spring-time of Youth, the Summer of Manhood, and the Autumn of Age quickly come and go, and then the Winter of Death will overtake us. So it is wise to be Awake and Ready. *Matt.* xiv. 44.

The Withering Grass, the Fading Flower, and the Falling Leaf, are all emblems of decaying life. But in Christ there is the Bud, Bloom, and Beauty of Eternal Life.

In Heaven everlasting spring abides and never withering flowers.

October is the Month that teaches that Man is mortal, that life's close is drawing near, that earthly pleasures are passing away, and that the "Harvest is past, and the Summer is ended."

NATURE FADES AND FALLS ASLEEP.

FAILING LEAVES.	<i>Gen.</i> iii. 7.
Life a Failure.	<i>Rom.</i> x. 3.
FRESH LEAVES.	<i>Ps.</i> i. 3.
Life a Blessing.	<i>Jer.</i> xvii. 8.
FADING LEAVES.	<i>Isa.</i> i. 30.
Life a Disappointment.	<i>Isa.</i> iii. 11.
FALLING LEAVES.	<i>Jer.</i> viii. 12, 13.
Life Punished.	<i>Hos.</i> ii. 9.
FRUITLESS LEAVES.	<i>Matt.</i> xxi. 19.
Life Useless.	<i>Jude</i> 12.
FRIGHTENING LEAVES.	<i>Lev.</i> xxvi. 36.
Life Fainting.	<i>Job</i> xv. 21.
FAMOUS LEAVES.	<i>Rev.</i> xxii. 2.
Life in Health.	<i>Ezek.</i> xlvii. 12.

Amidst all the changing things of Nature there are Divine things which abide for ever.

God Himself Abides.	<i>Heb.</i> i. 11.
The Living Word Abides.	1 <i>Peter</i> i. 25.

Life in Christ Abides.

John x. 28.

And the Believers' Inheritance is incorruptible,
undefiled, and fadeth not away. *1 Peter* i. 4.

"And Glory, Glory dwelleth,
In Immanuel's Land."

113. NOVEMBER.—The Foggy Month.

NOVEMBER is called by the Jews "Chisleu," and the present name "November" intimates its position as the ninth month of the old Roman Calendar. Our forefathers called it Sleety-Month, Slaughter-Month, and Foggy-Month. The weather generally is a mixture of frost, snow, rain, and fog, which makes it one of the most dreary months of the year. As one has written—

Fitful winds about us sigh,
Withered leaves around us lie,
Emblem of our own decay,
When the soul has passed away."

NATURAL FOG AND SPIRITUAL FOG.

1. **White Fog is Obstruction.** So is Ignorance.
Eph. iv. 18.
2. **Black Fog is Unhealthy.** So is Unbelief.
2 Cor. iv. 4.
3. **Day Fog is Gloomy.** So is Uncertainty.
2 Cor. iii. 14; *1 Cor.* xiii. 12.
4. **Night Fog is Dangerous.** So is Carelessness.
John xii. 35, 36.
5. **Thick Fog is Blinding.** So is Prejudice.
John i. 46; vii. 41.
6. **Heavy Fog is Depressing.** So is Fear.
Heb. ii. 15.
7. **Lifted Fog is Blessing.** So are Light and Hope.
Eph. v. 8; *1 Thess.* v. 8.

The Fogs of Sin (says Mr. Luff) are like Fogs of Winter, Darkening, Destroying, Defiling, Distressing. They Hide the beams of the Sun of Righteousness, and Blot out all the stars of promise; they Choke the breath of prayer, and Depress souls to the verge of spiritual suicide. So Defiling are they that only the Blood of Jesus can restore whiteness, and so Destructive that thousands of souls are for ever lost in the darkness.

November is Nature's wet blanket—anticipation of winter, more gloomy than winter itself. The shadow of death hovering over the year. Emblem of the approach of death. Nature at rest, and the most dismal month of the year.

November is a month in which all down the ages many notable historical events have occurred, but perhaps the best remembered is one which took place over two hundred years ago, called the "Gunpowder Plot." It was a plot formed to destroy the king and young prince, and blow up Parliament. But this awful design was mercifully frustrated by a letter sent to Lord Monteaagle. It was read, believed, and acted upon at once, and it saved them. In some respects this letter was like the Bible—God's letter to us. It was a letter of warning, a letter of love, a letter which told them of a way of escape. Such is the Word of God to us. It warns, it guides, and it leads to deliverance and safety all who heed its counsel. *Rom.* vi. 23; *John* iii. 16.

114. DECEMBER.—The Dark Month.

December is the Old Age of the year, and the last page of the year's record.

DARK THINGS IN DECEMBER.

1. **The Mornings are Dark.** *Gen.* i. 5.
But awake in good time. *Rom.* xiii. 11; *Ps.* lviii. 8.

2. **The Days are Dark.** *Amos v. 8; Joel ii. 2.*
Work with good cheer. *Matt. xxi. 28.*
3. **The Paths are Dark.** *Prov. ii. 13; iv. 19.*
Walk with a Lamp. *Ps. cxix. 105.*
4. **The Houses are Dark.** *Exod. x 22, 23.*
Warm them with Fires. *Jer. xxiii. 29.*
5. **The Sky is Dark.** *Josh. li. 9; Luke xii. 56.*
Watch for the Stars. *2 Peter i. 19; Josh. xxxi. 35.*
6. **The Nights are Dark.** *Ps. civ. 20.*
Welcome the Rest. *Ps. iv. 8; Eccles. v. 12.*
7. **The Future is Dark.** *John xii. 35.*
Winter will soon end. *Rom. xiii. 11; 1 Thess. v. 4-6.*

LIGHT UP IN GOOD TIME.

Travelling in the train we have often seen the lamps lighted in broad daylight preparatory to a passage through a dark tunnel, or for the coming night. A wise precaution requires that the lamp of grace be lit up in the heart that we may be in readiness for the dark passage in life or the tunnel of death.

An old man, covered with furs and having several caps on his head, is the pictorial representation of December. His nose is red, and his beard pendant with icicles; at his back he carries a bundle of sticks; and both his hands are incased in gloves. He bears the marks of age, feebleness, and decay: the emblems of life's close. The last year, the last month, the last day, the last hour, and the last moment will come to all, and happy for us if the exit from this life will be the introduction to a better one on the other side, and it will be if we "*Live Christ*"; then, indeed, "To die will be gain."

A minister of Christ in Philadelphia, dying, said in his last moments, "I move into the light." Hobbs, an infidel,

said when dying, "I am taking a fearful leap into the dark." What a contrast!

"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer" (1 Peter iv. 7).

115. SYMBOLS OF NATURE.

The Heavens.

1. Creation of the **Heavens.** Manifests the Power of God. *Gen. i. 1-8; Ps. xxxiii. 6; Ps. viii. 3.*
2. Glory of the **Heavens.** Displays the Wisdom of God. *Ps. xix. 1.*
3. Government of the **Heavens.** Expresses the Goodness of God. *Jer. x. 12.*
4. Passing away of the **Heavens.** Reveals the Righteousness of God. *2 Pet. iii. 10; Matt. xxiv. 35.*
5. New **Heavens.** (Will) Exhibit the Glory of God. *Rev. xxi. 1-4.*

116. The Sun a Picture of Christ.

1. The **Sun** the Fountain of Light. The Light of Christ. *Mal. iv. 2.*
2. The **Sun** the Ruler of the Day. The Sovereignty of Christ. *Ps. cxxxvi. 8.*
3. The **Sun** the Cause of Life. The Life of Christ. *John i. 4.*
4. The **Sun** the Source of Heat. The Love of Christ. *Luke xxiv. 32.*
5. The **Sun** the Bestower of Colour. The Grace of Christ. *Isa. xxxv. 1, 2.*
6. The **Sun** the Power of Attraction. The Power of Christ. *John xii. 39.*
7. The **Sun** the Dispenser of Blessing. The Blessings of Christ. *Ps. lxxxiv. 11.*

117. **The Moon a Picture of the Church.**

1. **In her Light.** REFLECTING His Life.
S. of Sol. vi. 10; *2 Cor.* iv. 6.
2. **In her Mission.** REPORTING His Word.
Phil. iii. 15, 16; *1 Pet.* ii. 9
3. **In her Blessings.** REVEALING His Grace.
Eph. v. 1, 2; *Phil.* iii. 10.
4. **In her Faithfulness.** REPEATING His Love.
John xiii. 34.
5. **In her Warnings.** REPROVING His Enemies.
Eph. v. 8; *x.* 13; *Matt.* xxiv. 29.

118. **The Stars, Pictures of Divine Truth.**

1. **General Star of Prophecy.** Points us to Christ.
Num. xxiv. 17.
2. **Guiding Star of Bethlehem.** Leads us to Christ.
Matt. ii. 2.
3. **Gracious Stars of Ministry.** Guide us to Christ.
Rev. i. 20.
4. **Gleaming Stars of Light.** Remind us of Christ.
Jer. xxxi. 35.
5. **Gathering Stars of Hope.** Draw us to Christ.
Rev. xxii. 16; *2 Pet.* i. 19.
6. **Glory Stars of Heaven.** Shine like Christ.
1 Cor. xv. 41, 42; *Dan.* xii. 3.
7. **Great Stars of Warning.** Usher in Christ.
Luke xxi. 25, 26.

119. **The Clouds, Illustrators of God's Goodness, Grace, and Glory.**

1. **God's Goodness.** PROVIDENCE.
Job xxxviii. 37; *Ps.* civ. 3; xxxvi. 5.
2. **God's Grace.** PEACE.
Isa. xliv. 22; *1 Kings* xviii. 44.

3. **God's Guidance.** PROTECTION.
Exod. xl. 36-38; *Num.* ix. 17.
4. **God's Gathering.** PROMISE.
Acts i. 9-11; *1 Thess.* iv. 17.
5. **God's Glory.** PROSPECT.
Exod. xl. 35; *Matt.* xxiv. 30; *Rev.* i. 7.

120. **Snow, Illustrating God's Love and the Christian Life.**

SNOW speaks to us of the—

1. **Providence of God.** GOD IN NATURE.
Job xxxvii. 6; *Ps.* cxlvii. 16.
2. **Pardon of Sin.** GOD IN GRACE.
Isa. i. 18; *Rev.* vii. 14.
3. **Purity of Heart.** GOD IN POWER. *Ps.* li. 7.
4. **Power of Truth.** GOD IN THE WORD.
Isa. lv. 10, 11.
5. **Praises of the Lord.** GOD IN ALL THINGS.
Ps. cxlviii. 7, 8.

121. **The Earth.**

"THE Earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof" (*Ps.* xxiv. 1). He made it, He governs it, and He fills it with His Goodness. The Earth was made by the Lord that it might become a Home for man's Happiness, a School for man's Instruction, a Field for man's Industry, and a Kingdom for man to Rule; but sin has turned it into a Prison and a Grave. The Earth with its history is a great key to open to us the heart of God.

1. **Its Creation a Mirror of God's Wisdom.**
EARTH'S SOVEREIGN. *Ps.* civ. 24.
2. **Its Movements a Proof of God's Care.**
EARTH'S SECRETS. *Job* xxvi. 7; *Isa.* xl. 22.

3. Its Seasons a **Reminder** of God's Faithfulness.
EARTH'S SERVICE. *Gen.* viii. 22.
4. Its History a **Story** of God's Love.
EARTH'S SALVATION. *John* iii. 16.
5. Its Life a **Sign** of God's Power.
EARTH'S STRENGTH. *Jer.* li. 15, 16.
6. Its Fruits a **Picture** of God's Grace.
EARTH'S SUPPLY. *Ps.* xxxiii. 5; cxix. 64.
7. Its End a **Link** in God's purposes.
EARTH'S SIGNAL. *2 Pet.* iii. 10.

122. **Mountains, Monuments of God's Power.**

1. Their **Greatness.** A Measure of God's Righteousness.
Ps. xxxvi. 6.
2. Their **Height.** A Pulpit for God's Truth.
Isa. xiii. 2.
3. Their **Strength.** A Mark of God's Power.
Ps. xc. 4.
4. Their **Shelter.** A Type of God's Protection.
Josh. ii. 16.
5. Their **Defence.** A Figure of God's Salvation.
Ps. cxxv. 2.
6. Their **Summit.** A Beacon of God's Warning.
Isa. xxx. 17.
7. Their **Age.** A Sign of God's Eternity.
Hab. iii. 6.

123. **Valleys, Pictures of Christian Experience.**

EARTHLY valleys are places of Shade and Shower, Pasture and Plenty, Fruit and Fulness, and they are graphic illustrations of the deep spiritual experiences of the child of God. Sometimes it means Suffering and Sorrow, Temptation and Trial; still our God is the God of the

Valleys, and with His Presence and Power every Valley of experience is a blessing.

1. Valley of **Achor.** Place of Trouble, Sin, and Sorrow.
Josh. xvii. 26.
2. Valley of **Bones.** Place of Death, Life, and Liberty.
Ezek. xxxvii. 3.
3. Valley of **Elah.** Place of Conflict, Valour, and Victory.
1 Sam. xvii. 2, 3.
4. Valley of **Baca.** Place of Blessing, Preparation, and Pilgrimage.
Ps. lxxxiv. 6.
5. Valley of **Eschol.** Place of Fruit, Promise, and Possession.
Num. xiii. 23, 24.
6. Valley of **Comfort.** Place of Hope, Separation, and Song.
Hos. ii. 15.
7. Valley of **Death.** Place of Rest, Preservation, and Peace.
Ps. xxiii. 4.

124. **Treasures in the Earth.**

1. **Gold**—A Type of Peace and Glory.
Rev. i. 12; iii. 18; xxi. 18.
2. **Silver**—A Symbol of Redemption and Service.
Lev. xxvii. 3; *Num.* x. 2.
3. **Precious Stones**—Emblems of Treasure and Testimony. *1 Chron.* xxix. 2; *2 Sam.* xii. 30; *1 Cor.* iii. 12.
4. **Copper, Brass**—A Sign of Strength and Solidity.
Exod. xxxix. 39; *Jer.* i. 18; *Ezek.* viii. 27.
5. **Iron**—A Picture of Suffering and Labour.
Job xxviii. 2; *Deut.* iv. 20; *Ps.* cvii. 10.
6. **Coal**—An Illustration of Blackness and Hardness.
Lam. iv. 8; *Isa.* vi. 6; *Prov.* xxvi. 21.
7. **Salt**—A Figure of Purity and Preservation.
Deut. xxix. 23; *2 Kings* ii. 20; *Matt.* v. 13.

125. **Rivers, Pictures of God's Grace.**

RIVERS OF GOD.

1. **The Divine River.** The Source of all Grace.
Ps. lxxv. 9.
 2. **The New River.** The Measure of God's Love.
Ezek. xlvii. 5.
 3. **The Full River.** The Quickening of all Life.
Ezek. xlvii. 9; Ps. i. 3.
 4. **The Calm River.** The Emblem of Peace.
Isa. xlviii. 18; lxvi. 12.
 5. **The Deep River.** The Streams of His Gladness.
Ps. xlvi. 4.
 6. **The Flowing River.** The Life more Abundant.
John vii. 38.
 7. **The Pure River.** The Fulness of all Joy.
Rev. xxii. 1.
126. **Trees of Truth Laden with Fruit.**
1. **The Test Tree.** The Signal of Warning.
SIN. *Gen. ii. 16, 17.*
 2. **The Cursed Tree.** The Measure of God's Love.
SAVIOUR. *Deut. xxi. 22; Gal. iii. 13; Acts x. 39*
 3. **The Planted Tree.** The Blessing of God's Grace.
SALVATION. *Ps. i. 3; Jer. xvii. 8.*
 4. **The Living Tree.** The Work of God's Spirit.
SUPPLY. *Isa. lxi. 3; Ps. civ. 6; Matt. vii. 17.*
 5. **The Fruit Tree.** The Perfected Life.
SUCCESS. *Cant. ii. 3; Prov. xi. 30.*
 6. **The Felled Tree.** The End of Opportunity.
SEPARATION. *Eccles. i. 3; Matt. iii. 10; Job xiv. 7.*
 7. **The Everlasting Tree.** The Heavenly Fruit.
SATISFACTION. *Rev. ii. 7; xxii. 2 and 14.*

CHAPTER V

BRIGHT NAILS FOR ACTIVE SERVICE

127. **Living Saints in the Lord's City.**

Ps. lxxxvii. 1-7.

"GLORIOUS things are spoken of thee, O City of God." This City of God is a Healthy City, a Holy City, and a Happy City, and will be the future centre of Light, Love, and Joy for the whole earth.

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Zion's City. | The City of God. | v. 3. |
| 2. Zion's Converts. | Living souls. | v. 5. |
| 3. Zion's Register. | "He writeth up His people." | v. 6. |
| 4. Zion's Singers. | "As well as the Singers." | v. 7. |
| 5. Zion's Joys. | "All my springs are in Thee." | v. 7. |

This City hath Foundations (Heb. xi. 10); Gates (Rev. xxii. 14, 15); and a Grand Charter—Salvation. No Sickness, no Sorrow, no Death.

The Converts are free-born souls (v. 5); all born again by the Holy Spirit (John iii. 3); by the Word of God (James i. 18); and by faith in Jesus (Gal. iii. 26).

All the Lord's people are registered in God's Book. Their *Birthplace* is registered (v. 6); their *Names* written in Heaven (Luke x. 20); their *Characters* are noted (Mal. iii. 17); their *Lives* phonographed (Rev. xxi. 27); and their *Services* recorded (Phil. iv. 3).

Most of the Lord's people are born singers. They can

sing Solos (Luke i. 46, 47); Duets (Acts xvi. 25); Trios (Ps. cviii. 1, 2); Quartets (2 Chron. v. 12, 13); and by-and-by they will all join in the great Hallelujah Chorus in the glory (Rev. v. 9).

The Spring of Life—Peace, Love, Joy, Hope, and Glory are all in Christ Jesus.

128. Songs the Saved Ones Sing.

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|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 1. The New Song. | LIFE. | <i>Ps.</i> xl. 3. |
| 2. The Lord's Song. | PRaise. | <i>Ps.</i> cxxxvii. 4. |
| 3. The Home Song. | JOY. | <i>Ps.</i> cxxxvii. 4. |
| 4. The Salvation Song. | GRATITUDE. | <i>Ps.</i> xxxii. 7. |
| 5. The Spiritual Song. | FELLOWSHIP. | <i>Eph.</i> v. 19. |
| 6. The Pilgrim Song. | GLADNESS. | <i>Isa.</i> xxxv. 10. |
| 7. The Redemption Song. | GLORY. | <i>Rev.</i> xv. 3. |

129. The Grapes of Esbcol.

Numbers xiii. 23.

THE true Christian's motto is "Christ in everything, and everything in Christ," and the Holy Spirit delights to set Him forth to His people through the Word, both by the facts and figures of the Old Testament and the truths of the New Testament. Christ all and in all. The Holy Spirit uses a very sweet figure in this 13th chapter of Numbers to reveal Jesus and His saving grace. The Cluster of Grapes at *Eshcol*. It is a picture of the great clusters of blessings in Jesus.

1. **The Cluster of Merit** in Christ.
Col. i. 19; *John* i. 16.
2. **The Cluster of Blessing** in Christ. *Eph.* i. 3.
3. **The Cluster of Promises** in Christ. *2 Pet.* i. 4.
4. **The Cluster of Fruit** in Christ.
Gal. v. 22; *John* xv. 1-8

The cluster of merit in Christ Jesus includes the grace of His holy life, His Perfect Work, His Risen Power, and His Coming Glory.
Heb. vii. 26; *1 Pet.* ii. 22;

Heb. x. 12; *Phil.* iii. 10; *Col.* iii. 4.

The Spiritual blessings in Christ are innumerable, and are grouped together by the Holy Spirit in Ephesians i. Pardon of our sins (*v.* 7); Peace with God (*v.* 2); Position in Him (*v.* 4); Privilege through Him (*v.* 6); Purity by Him (*v.* 4); Possession in Him (*v.* 11); Preservation by His Spirit (*v.* 13).

The precious promises are all Yea and Amen in Christ Jesus. They cannot fail, for they rest on four great Divine Pillars.

God's HOLINESS, which will not suffer Him to deceive.

God's LOVE, which will not allow Him to forget.

God's TRUTH, which will not permit Him to change.

God's POWER, which will enable Him to perform.

"The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Long-suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance," and when this fruit fills the soul and is ripened by the sunshine of His love, the Lord will then help us to bring forth *much* more fruit to His glory in our lives.

130. No. 1.—The Palace of Grace.

Foundations and Pillars.—*Prov.* ix. 1.

WISDOM's house may be called "The Palace of Grace," or the Church of God. It means the place of safety in Christ, the sphere of Communion and Fellowship, the inner circle of Love and Life, and the House of Service for the Lord. It is variously described and illustrated in the Word of God as the House of Welcome for the Sinner. the

Hall of Grace for blessing, the Household of Faith for fellowship, the House of Wisdom for instruction, the Habitation of God for indwelling, the Holy Temple for worship and praise, and the House of Service for the Master's work. Note the stability.

1. **The Foundation.** The Lord Jesus Himself.

THE WORK OF CHRIST.

2. **The Pillars.** There are Seven Pillars.

THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST.

3. **The Provision.** The Table is furnished.

THE GRACE OF CHRIST.

The foundation of this Palace rests upon the Incarnation, the Atonement, the Resurrection and Intercession of Jesus.

It is Deep, laid in the counsels of God and the Cross of Christ.

It is Strong, laid by the power of God to bear a lost world.

It is Sure, as God's love, God's word, and God's character.

2 *Tim.* ii. 19.

It is Eternal, for eternal salvation and eternal life for the saved.

Heb. v. 9; ix. 12, 15.

The pillars of this Palace tell of Strength, Beauty, and Security. *Love*—Christ's nature (*John* xvii. 23); *Mercy*—Christ's work (*Titus* iii. 5); *Truth*—Christ's Word (*John* xiv. 6); *Righteousness*—Christ's Character (*Phil.* iii. 9); *Peace*—Christ's Gift (*John* xiv. 27); *Holiness*—Christ's Life (*1 Pet.* i. 16); and *Power*—Christ's Spirit (*Phil.* iii. 10).

There is a fulness of blessing in Christ for every needy soul, and "yet there is room"—room in the Father's love, the Saviour's merits, and the Spirit's grace. The Table is spread, the invitation is *Come*, and the warm welcome for every believing soul is ready.

John x. 9; *Luke* xiv. 23; *Rev.* xxii. 17; *John* vi. 37

Wisdom's Cry to the World:—

STARVING SINNERS.	Come for the Bread of Life.
IGNORANT SINNERS.	Come for the Wisdom of God.
WANDERING SINNERS.	Come to the House of God.
NEEDY SINNERS.	Come to the Power of God.
EMPTY SINNERS.	Come to the Fulness of God.
RUINED SINNERS.	Come to the Redemption of God.
SEEKING SINNERS.	Come to the Welcome of God.

131. No. 2.—The Palace of Grace.

The Open Doors.

THE open Door to the Palace of Grace is Jesus. *John* x. 9.

The Palace of Grace taken as the House of Wisdom;
Christ is the Door. *1 Cor.* i. 30.

The Palace of Grace taken as the House of Grace; Christ
is the Door. *John* xiv. 6.

The Palace of Grace taken as the Household of Faith;
Christ is the Door. *Gal.* iii. 26.

The Palace of Grace taken as the House of Service;
Christ is the Door. *Rev.* iii. 8.

This door is—

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The Door of Salvation. | Therefore it is near. |
| 2. The Door of Safety. | Therefore it shuts in. |
| 3. The Door of Privilege. | Therefore it is open. |
| 4. The Door of Opportunity. | But it shuts up. |
| 5. The Door of Separation. | So it shuts out. |

The Salvation of God in Christ is *near*; the Lord Himself is *near* (*Isa.* lv. 6); His Righteousness is *near* (*Isa.* li. 5); His *word* is *near* (*Rom.* x. 8); the Door of life is *near* (*John* x. 9).

All inside this door are safe. Shut in the ark of God's mercy (*Gen.* vii. 16); held in the arms of Divine power

(Deut. xxxiii. 27); sheltered in the Refuge of love (Ps. xlvi. 102); secured by the word of His grace (John x. 28); and hidden with the Son of His love (Col. iii. 3).

The open door lets us in to all the treasures of His grace, and out to all the opportunities of His service. In for Grace; out for Testimony. In for Counsel; out for Action. In for Rest; out for Work. In for Fellowship; out for Fruit.

The opportunities for life and service will soon be gone. We have now the Time (Eph. v. 16); the Talents (Luke xix. 13); the Trust (1 Tim. i. 11). But soon the door will shut.

When the Master shuts the door, all outside will have to remain outside, and it will be an eternal separation then. *Luke* xiii. 24, 25; *Rev.* xxii. 11; *Matt.* xxv. 11, 12.

Particulars of this Door.

The Porter is Moses, the representative of the Law.

John x. 3.

The Door-posts are places of decision for Salvation and Service.

Exod. xii. 7; xxi. 6.

The Door-keepers are Ministers of Christ.

1 *Chron.* xv. 23, 24; *Ps.* lxxxiv. 10.

The Door open is Life and Blessing. Door shut, Death and Destruction.

132. No. 3.—The Palace of Grace.

The Palace Keys.

KEYS are emblems of authority, privilege and responsibility, and all the keys of Divine things are especially important. Jesus is the great Steward in the King's Palace, and all the keys of life and death, grace and glory, and heaven and hell are laid upon Him (*Isa.* xxii. 22; *Rev.* i. 18). But to His followers He has given a number

of keys for their present use "*Till He come*"—keys of Knowledge and Faith, keys of Privilege and Power, and keys of Salvation and Service. With these keys we can open every door in the Palace of Grace.

1. **The Master Key of Faith.** "All things whatsoever." *Matt.* xxi. 22.

2. **The Bright Key of Knowledge.** "And ye know all things." *1 John* ii. 20.

3. **The Great Key of Power.** "Power of His resurrection." *Phil.* iii. 10.

4. **The Opening Key of Prayer.** "Come boldly," etc. *Heb.* iv. 16.

5. **The Golden Key of Promise.** "Exceeding great," etc. *2 Pet.* i. 4.

6. **The Mighty Key of Love.** "We love Him," etc. *1 John* iv. 19.

7. **The Strong Key of Patience.** "In your patience," etc. *Luke* xxi. 19.

With the Key of Faith we Enter the Palace, Inspect every room, and Enjoy every blessing. Noah used this key to enter the ark (*Gen.* vii. 7); Abraham used this key to open his path (*Heb.* xi. 8); Joseph used this key to open the prison (*Gen.* xxxix. 23); Paul used this key for mighty deeds.

The Key of Knowledge brings the light of God into the soul. It gives us the knowledge of our treasure in Christ. It fills us with assurance of faith, love, and hope.

Col. ii. 2; *Heb.* x. 22; *vi.* 11.

The Key of Power gives us the right and privilege to make the best use of the Palace. It is the Power of Relationship as Sons (*John* i. 12); the Power of Privilege as Saints (*Eph.* i. 19); the Power of Authority as Stewards

(1 Pet. iv. 10). It is the Power for Use as Servants (Acts i. 8).

The Key of Prayer enables us to come into the presence of the King. By this key we are brought into speaking distance with the throne of grace. We can keep open the Telephone of Communion (Num. vii. 89), the Telegraph of Prayer (Neh. ii. 4), and our Correspondence with all the Saints (Phil. i. 4).

The Key of Promise can be used in times of Darkness, Doubt, and Danger. There are dark corners in the Palace. Saints don't keep awake and the devil puts the light out. But the Key of Promise is most useful (2 Cor. i. 20).

The Key of Love makes all the others work well, and is most useful in the work-room (2 Cor. v. 14), for Fellowship (1 John iii. 14), for Testimony (John xiii. 35), and for Service.

The Key of Patience is most useful for every worker. Patience in life (Heb. x. 36), Patience in Tribulation (Rom. v. 3), Patience in Service (James v. 7), Patience in Hope (Heb. vi. 11, 12).

133. No. 4.—The Palace of Grace.

The Rooms in the Palace.

THE Salvation of God in Jesus has been variously illustrated and described in the Bible as a Rock for Shelter, as a Refuge for Safety, as a Tower for Security, and as a Home for Fellowship, and we may call it also a Palace of Grace for Blessing. Let us inspect the several rooms in this wonderful Palace.

1. **The Reception-room for Welcome.** *John vi. 37.*

2. **The Dining-room for Provision.** *Isa. lv. 2.*

3. **The Reading-room for Instruction.**

Titus ii. 11, 12.

4. **The Sitting-room for Fellowship.** *1 John i. 3.*

5. **The Drawing-room for Rest.** *Ps. xxxvii. 7.*

6. **The Work-room for Service.** *Matt. xxi. 28.*

7. **The Waiting-room for Hope.** *1 Thess. i. 10.*

In the Reception-room we get three things—Reception, Cleansing, and Clothing (S. of Sol. i. 4). The Welcome of His Love (Luke xv. 22), the Cleansing of His Blood (Rev. i. 5), and the Clothing of His Righteousness (Zech. iii. 4).

In the Dining-room we get Food. It is first, *trust* Christ for Salvation, and then *feed* on Christ for strength. *There is good food—Christ*; regular meal times—the means of grace; and to keep healthy we require a good Appetite, good Digestion, and good Exercise.

In the Reading-room we get Instruction. There are three great books to read—the *Bible*, *Experience*, and *Providence*. We have to learn our relationship to God—*Sons* (1 John iii. 2); our relationship to each other—*Brethren* (Rom. xii. 5–10); our relationship to the world—*Light, Salt, and Witnesses* (Matt. v. 13, 14).

The Sitting-room is where the saints Sit and enjoy God in communion and joy; fellowship with God (1 John i. 3; Phil. ii. 1); fellowship with saints (Gal. ii. 9); fellowship in service (Phil. i. 5).

The Drawing-room is the place for Rest—*rest* from every burden and care, *rest* in the Lord, *rest* in joy and hope. *Matt. xi. 28.*

The Work-room is the place for *service*. We are saved to serve, and the Master hath need of us (Luke xix. 31); the Master is calling for workers (John xi. 28); the Master is near us all the time (Matt. xxviii. 20); and the Master is coming to reward His servants (Rev. xxii. 12); and the Master will shut the door soon (Luke xiii. 25).

The Waiting-room is on the bright, sunny side of the

Palace, and the happy, hopeful Christians are Waiting for the coming of the Lord. They are Waiting for the vision of glory (Hab. ii. 3); Waiting for the redemption of the body (Rom. viii. 23); Waiting for the manifestation of the Sons of God (Rom. viii. 19); Waiting for the Lord Himself (1 Thess. i. 10).

134. No. 5.—The Palace of Grace.

The Windows of the Palace.

THE household of faith is the abode of Light, Love, and Life, and the Lord wishes His people to enjoy all the privileges of His house, so He has appointed windows in this Palace of Grace for the saints to look through.

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| 1. The Window of Grace. | <i>Gen.</i> vi. 16. |
| 2. The Window of Truth. | 1 <i>Cor.</i> xiii. 12. |
| 3. The Window of Prayer. | <i>Dan.</i> vi. 10. |
| 4. The Window of Blessing. | <i>Mal.</i> iii. 10. |
| 5. The Window of Hope. | <i>Tit.</i> ii. 13. |

The Window of Grace is the only one which lets in God's light of grace to us. It is the Window of His Covenant love, illustrated by the Window in the Ark. The Window was Above; so every blessing is from above (James i. 17). The Window Let in the Light; so all true light comes from God (2 Cor. iv. 6). The Window Opened and Shut; so do the windows of God's grace (John xii. 36).

The Window of Truth is the Window of the Word. Through this we see ourselves (Ps. cxix. 130); God and His Love (1 John iv. 8); Christ and His Redemption (John xx. 31); Heaven as our Home (John xiv. 1, 2); Hell as a Prison (Luke xvi. 22, 23).

The Window of Prayer tells of wonderful privileges. The way of access to God is open, our minds are open to

think of God, our mouths are open to express our need, and our hearts are open to receive the blessing. The Lord wants us to use these windows often.

1 *Thess.* v. 17; *Phil.* iv. 6; *Luke* xviii. 1.

Windows of Blessing are always open, and God wants us to get ready to receive the blessings, to give up what belongs to Him, to pray and prove His word, and make room for abundant blessing.

The Bright Window of Hope is the promise of Christ's speedy coming. This world is a *school*, and Hope is the Window of Brightness to encourage us in our lessons. This world is a *workhouse*, and Hope is the Window of Rest and Help in our labour. This world is a *prison*, and Hope is the Window of Liberty to cheer us in the darkness. This world is like a *sea of trouble*, and Hope is the light in the window for us. This world is a *wilderness*, and Hope is the Star to guide us Home.

135. No. 6.—The Palace of Grace.

The Pictures of the Palace.

THE World of Nature, the Book of Truth, and the Church of God, are full of Pictures. In every room in the Palace of Grace there is a special picture: so we have pictures of Life and Death, Sin and Salvation, Faith and Fear, and Hope and Despair. A walk through the rooms of the Palace will be necessary.

1. **The Reception-room.** Received, Cleansed, and Clothed.
2. **The Dining-room.** Living, Feeding, and Testifying.
3. **The Reading-room.** Reading, Learning, and Growing.

4. **The Sitting-room.** Sitting, Worshipping, and Praising.

5. **The Drawing-room.** Obedience, Rest, and Enjoyment.

6. **The Work-room.** Building, Blessing, and Working.

7. **The Waiting-room.** Waiting, Watching, and Longing.

The Reception-room Pictures.

The PRODIGAL (Luke xv. 20-22). JOSHUA (Zech. iii. 1-7).

The Dining-room Pictures.

MEPHIBOSHETH (2 Sam. ix. 1-13). LAZARUS (John xii. 2-11).

The Reading-room Pictures.

MARY (Luke x. 39). PAUL (Phil. iv. 11-13; 2 Pet. iii. 18).

The Sitting-room Pictures.

DAVID (2 Sam. vii. 18). The BRIDE (S. of Sol. ii. 3). The DISCIPLES (Matt. xxvi. 20; Luke xxii. 14; Acts ii. 42-47).

The Drawing-room Pictures.

MOSES (Exod. xxxiii. 14; Ruth iii. 18). DISCIPLES (Mark vi. 31).

The Work-room Pictures.

NEHEMIAH (iv. 6). DISCIPLES (John vi. 11). PAUL (1 Cor. xv. 10).

The Waiting-room Pictures.

JOSEPH waiting for the kingdom (Mark xv. 43). SERVANTS watching for the Master (Luke xii. 36, 37). HUSBANDMAN waiting for the Harvest (James v. 7). SAINTS waiting for their Lord (1 Thess. i. 10).

136. **No. 7.—The Palace of Grace.**

The Lamps of the Palace.

THERE are a few useful Lamps in this Palace which should be kept constantly burning, for the Light, Guide, and Comfort of all the Brethren.

1. **The Oil Lamp for the Saints.** The Holy Spirit.
John xvi. 13.

2. **The Safety Lamp for the Palace.** The Bible.

3. **The Burning Lamp for Reflection.** Believers.
The Believer is *saved* by Jesus, and then *taught* by the Holy Spirit, and *guided* into all truth. The Holy Spirit delights to reveal Jesus, yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

“He shall bring all things to your remembrance.”

John xiv. 26.

“He shall take of mine and show it unto you.”

John xvi. 15.

“He will show you things to come.” *John xvi. 13.*

Jesus on the Cross, on the Throne, and in the Glory for ever.

The Safety Lamp has a special power like the Prism to break up the Light reflecting the different colours of His love.

THE ORANGE—Convincing light.

This touches *the Conscience*.

THE BLUE— Living light.

This touches *the Soul*.

THE RED— Warming light.

This touches *the Heart*.

THE GREEN— Testimony light.

This touches *the Life*.

THE PURPLE—Royal light.

This touches *the Position*.

THE VIOLET— True light.

This touches *the Security*.

THE YELLOW—Glory light.

This touches *the Honour*.

The Burning Lamps are Believers. They are filled with oil from the Oil Lamp, the Holy Spirit, lit by the Lord Himself, put in their proper places, and then commanded to shine (Matt. v. 15). The Believer should Shine to Show his love, Shine to Cheer the weary, Shine to Guide the wanderer, Shine to Help the worker, and Shine to Reflect his Master's glory.

137. No. 8.—The Palace of Grace.

The Fires of the Palace.

THE Lord wants all His children to be warm, bright, and happy, not cold, dull, and doubtful. Therefore He has arranged a number of fires in the Palace, so that their love shall be kept warm, their testimony bright, and their lives happy and useful.

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| 1. The Sacred Fire. | The Holy Spirit. | |
| | | <i>Matt. iii. 11.</i> |
| 2. The Burning Fire. | The Word of God. | |
| | | <i>Jer. xxiii. 29.</i> |
| 3. The Warming Fire. | The Communion of Saints. | |
| | | <i>Luke xxiv. 32.</i> |
| 4. The Cheering Fire. | Testimony. | <i>Acts xi. 23.</i> |
| 5. The Useful Fire. | Service. | <i>Acts ii. 4.</i> |
| 6. The Quickening Fire. | Prayer. | <i>Acts i. 14.</i> |
| 7. The Refining Fire. | Suffering. | <i>Mal. iii. 2, 3.</i> |

The Holy Spirit *enlightens* the mind, *warms* the heart, and *energizes* the life.

The Word of God *burns* like fire, *melts* like fire, and

quickens like fire. The Fire of Communion *warms* the heart, *loosens* the tongue, and *hastens* the feet.

At Pentecost we see the fire *lit*, the fire *burning*, and the fire *spreading*, and then follows the fire of Prayer, *united faith*, *united prayer*, and *united praise*.

The Lord knows how to apply the fire of Suffering till He can see His own image in us.

138. No. 9.—The Palace of Grace.

The Provisions of the Palace.

1. It is a Prepared Table. *Prov. ix. 2; Ps. xxiii. 5.*
2. It is the King's Table. *2 Chron. ix. 3, 4.*
3. It is a Full and Open Table. *Luke xiv. 17.*

A Table well furnished in the Wilderness for Pilgrims. We have the Type (2 Chron. ix. 3, 4), the Picture (2 Sam. ix. 7-10), and the Foretaste (Luke xxii. 30; Rev. xix. 9). On this Table of our King there is,—

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| Bread to Nourish us. | <i>John vi. 35.</i> |
| | Jesus the Bread of life. |
| Water to Refresh us. | <i>John iv. 14.</i> |
| | Jesus the Water of life. |
| Milk to Feed us. | <i>1 Pet. ii. 2.</i> |
| | Jesus the Word of life. |
| Strong Meat to Strengthen us. | <i>Heb. v. 14.</i> |
| | Jesus the Power of life. |
| Fruit to Sustain us. | <i>S. of Sol. ii. 3</i> |
| | Jesus the Strength of life. |
| Wine to Cheer us. | <i>Isa. lv. 1.</i> |
| | Jesus the Joy of life. |
| Salt to Preserve us. | <i>2 Kings ii. 12</i> |
| | Jesus the Preserver of life. |

All we have to do is to *eat* and be *thankful*.

CHAPTER VI

SPECIAL NAILS

Special Nails for Fixing Pictures.

THESE special Nails in this chapter are notes of Bible Readings, which have been given with illustrated pictures, a special and successful means of reaching the soul through the eye as well as the ear, and fixing the truth of God upon the heart; that is the reason we call them Special Nails for Fixing Pictures. But the Holy Spirit can by these notes draw the pictures before the mind and fix the word in the soul, without the pictures for the eye.

139. The Altars of Grace.

THE different Altars mentioned in Scripture were for three purposes—*Sacrifice*, *Worship*, and *Instruction*. They were object lessons for Israel, as they all pointed to Christ and His atoning work, and they show us the Sympathy, Grace, Love, and Power of the Lord Jesus.

1. **The Altar of Earth.** The PLACE OF WORSHIP.
Exod. xx. 24.
2. **The Altar of Stone.** The WAY OF WORSHIP.
Deut. xxvii. 5-8; Exod. xx. 25, 26.
3. **The Altar of Brass.** The BASIS OF WORSHIP.
Exod. xxvii. 1-8.
4. **The Altar of Gold.** The POWER OF WORSHIP.
Exod. xxx. 1-10.

The Altar is the *meeting-place* between God and the Sinner, the *place of worship* for the Saint, and the *place of blessing and power* for the Servant. We get all at the Cross. *John i. 14; xvi. 6; 1 Tim. ii. 5, 6; Heb. iv. 14; Matt. xviii. 20; Heb. ii. 16, 17.*

The Altar of Stone points to the perfect character of Christ. *Whole Stone*, something perfect. *No tool* to be lifted upon it; no legality of man. *No steps*. Nothing between Christ and the Sinner.

The Brazen Altar points straight to the Cross. There we see Satisfaction for God (*Heb. ix. 14*); Sacrifice for Sin (*1 Pet. ii. 28*); Substitution for the Sinner (*2 Cor. v. 21*), and Salvation for all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (*Rom. v. 1*).

The Golden Altar has a *typical meaning*, a *spiritual significance*, and a *practical use*. It points to the Intercession of Christ in Heaven. At the Brazen Altar we have Rest of Conscience, and at the Golden Altar we have Rest of Heart. In its typical aspect it sets forth the Life, Glory, and Power of Christ (*Heb. ix. 24*). In its spiritual significance it sets forth the Merits of Christ (*Heb. x. 19, 20*); and in its practical use the Intercession of Christ securing every blessing for His people (*Heb. iv. 16-18; x. 23*).

ALTAR OF EARTH. "The word made flesh and dwelt amongst us."
John i. 4.

ALTAR OF STONE. "I am the way, the truth, and the life."
John xiv. 6.

ALTAR OF BRASS. "There is one God, and one Mediator."
1 Tim. ii. 5.

ALTAR OF GOLD. "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest," etc.
Heb. iv. 14.

140. **The Banners of Salvation.**

THE Christian is an Armour-bearer for the Lord Jesus. Called to the battle. Led by the Captain to conflict and victory, the fight is severe. The enemies are strong; but the issues are certain. If we are faithful we shall share in the glory.

"Only an Armour-bearer, firmly I stand,
Waiting to follow at the King's command."

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| 1. The Banner of Truth. | BIBLE. | <i>Ps. lx. 4.</i> |
| 2. The Banner of Salvation. | GRACE. | <i>Ps. xx. 5.</i> |
| 3. The Banner of Love. | EXPERIENCE. | <i>S. of Sol. ii. 4.</i> |
| 4. The Banner of Testimony. | LIFE. | <i>S. of Sol. vi. 10.</i> |
| 5. The Banner of Victory. | GLORY. | <i>Exod. xvii. 15.</i> |

We have the God of Truth our Portion (*Jer. x. 10.*)
The Living Truth our Peace (*John vi. 14.*); the Spirit of Truth our Power (*John xvi. 13.*); and the Word of Truth our Possession (*John xvii. 17.*)

"By grace are ye Saved" (*Eph. ii. 8.*); we are Saved (*Rom. viii. 1.*); we are Working out Salvation (*Phil. ii. 12.*); we are Waiting for Salvation (*Rom. xiii. 11.*); and we shall be Eternally Saved (*Heb. v. 9.*). The Joy of Deliverance, the Joy of Possession, the Joy of Hope, and the Joy of Heaven.

Divine Love in its manifold blessing and power. Redeeming Love (*John iii. 16.*); Adopting Love (*1 John iii. 1.*); Unquenchable Love (*S. of Sol. viii. 7.*); Unchangeable (*John xiii. 1.*); Inseparable Love (*Rom. viii. 35.*); and Everlasting Love (*Jer. xxxi. 3.*)

Our Testimony must be *clear, bright, and decided* for Jesus. *Phil. ii. 15.*

The Banner of Victory is waving now in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and brings Gratitude for deliverance, Faith in the Lord's power, Praise for the Lord's presence, and Hope in the Lord's promise. The Lord gives His people Victory over Sin (*Rom. vii. 25.*); Victory over Satan (*1 John ii. 14.*); Victory over the World (*1 John v. 4.*); and Victory over Death (*1 Cor. xv. 52.*)

141. **The Banner of the Cross.**

THE Centre of Attraction (*John xii. 32.*); the Standard of Peace (*Col. i. 20.*); the Symbol of Power (*1 Cor. i. 18.*); the Mark of Separation (*Gal. vi. 14.*)

142. **No. 1.—The Christian Armour.**

THE Christian life is a conflict, our enemies are very numerous and powerful, and to secure safety and victory we need the whole armour of God (*Eph. vi. 12.*). The moment we become Christians the battle begins, and the conflict is severe, for we have a threefold opposition to face: an *external foe*—the World; an *internal foe*—the Flesh; and an *infernal foe*—the Devil. But if we are Filled with the Spirit of God, Clad in the Armour of God, and Led by Jesus our Captain, we shall overcome and conquer.

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| 1. The Girdle of Truth. | <i>Eph. vi. 14.</i> |
| 2. The Breastplate of Righteousness. | <i>v. 14.</i> |
| 3. The Shoes of Peace. | <i>v. 15.</i> |

The *Girdle* is a very important part of the dress in the East, and is used more particularly for *Walk, Work, and Warfare*; and serves as a telling illustration of God's

Word girding up the mind, heart, and life for active service. It means in a Spiritual sense, *Simplicity, Sincerity, and Reality.*

Truth in the *mind* is Light (Prov. xxii. 21); Truth in the *heart* is Love (Ps. cxix. 97); Truth in the *Life* is Thoroughness (2 Chron. xxxi. 30); Truth in *Worship* is Sincerity (John iv. 24); Truth in *Service* is Reality (John xvi. 13). Let us gird ourselves (1 Pet. i. 13; Luke xii. 35, 36).

We are to put on the Grace of Righteousness for our protection in our Christian warfare. There are three aspects of this special grace—Imputed Righteousness, Imparted Righteousness, and Practical Righteousness. The merits of Christ—Grace of the Spirit, and Holiness of life (Isa. lix. 17; Jer. xxiii. 6). This Breastplate is composed of a threefold grace—Faith, Love, and Righteousness (1 Thess. v. 8). Faith puts it on, Love keeps it on, and Righteousness wears it by *living Christ.*

The Shoes mean the grace and ministry of *peace.* Peace with God, with Conscience, and with all. Shoes *off* is a mark of distance. Shoes *on* is a mark of grace and nearness (Luke xv. 22). These Shoes speak to us of *Rest, Reality, and Readiness.*

Readiness for Pilgrimage.

Exod. xii. 11.

Readiness for Testimony.

1 Pet. iii. 15.

Readiness for Service.

Rom. i. 15.

Readiness for Warfare.

Eph. vi. 15.

Readiness for Death.

2 Tim. iv. 6.

Readiness for Christ's Coming.

Matt. xxv. 10.

In a Spiritual sense these Shoes mean, a *clear conscience, a cleansed heart, an obedient life and a readiness for Service.* These Shoes of peace are from the best maker, fit all kinds of feet, and never wear out. Therefore, stand firm in the power of truth (Eph. vi. 14);

stand soberly in the grace of truth (1 Pet. i. 13); stand patiently in the light of truth (Luke xii. 35, 36).

143. No. 2.—Christian Armour.

THE Lord bids us put on the whole armour of God, because we need it all, every bit, to meet the devil; he is so powerful and wily.

4. **The Shield of Faith.**

Eph. vi. 16.

5. **The Helmet of Salvation.**

v. 17.

6. **The Sword of the Spirit.**

v. 17.

7. **The Prayer in the Spirit.**

v. 18.

The Shield of Faith means the Grace of Faith always in exercise, protecting us from the fiery darts of the evil one. There is a fourfold aspect of this Shield of Faith. Shield from Danger—Salvation (Ps. xviii. 35); Shield from Doubt—Truth (Ps. xci. 4); Shield from Despondency—Love (Ps. v. 12); Shield from Devil—Faith (Eph. vi. 16); we overcome by Faith (1 Pet. v. 9; 1 John v. 4; 1 Tim. xvi. 12).

Hope is the Helmet of Salvation (1 Thess. v. 8). There are different features of this Hope revealed in the Word of God (1 Pet. i. 13; Col. i. 27).

The Source of Hope: God Himself. The Object of Hope: Salvation. The Basis of Hope: Christ's Work. The Use of Hope: to Cheer Life. The End of Hope: Eternal Life.

When we have put on the whole armour of God, then we shall need to *watch, pray, and persevere* most earnestly to be overcomers for Christ. The command is—

Pray always (Phil. iv. 6). Pray at all times (1 Thess. v. 17). Pray with all Prayer (Jude 20). Pray for all things (Luke xviii. 1).

The Sword of the Spirit. This points to the power of

the word skilfully used by the hand of faith. There is no power like the Word of God for Christian soldiers.

Heb. iv. 12.

It Penetrates the Conscience (Acts ii. 37).

It Lays Open the Heart.

It Breaks down the Walls of Unbelief (2 Cor. x. 4).

It Saves the Soul (2 Tim. iii. 15).

It Keeps from Fainting in affliction (Ps. cxix. 92), and it Disarms Death (Ps. xxiii. 4).

It is a wonderful sword. The first five books of the Bible are the *handle* to this sword. The Prophecies are the *blade*, the Gospels are the *point*, and the Epistles are the *edge* of this wonderful power, and there is no sword like it.

144. Clocks and Christians.

CLOCKS and Christians are very much alike in many respects—in *character, design and service, skilfully made, wonderfully moved, and practically useful.*

The clock is the emblem of man, with its beating heart, mysterious works, open face, moving fingers, and striking tongue. A moving miracle. But clocks are also telling pictures of Christians. There are many kinds of clocks, and different kinds of Christians.

Big Clocks and Little Clocks. Big Saints and Little Saints.

Eight-day Clocks and Every-day Clocks. Sunday Saints and Every-day Saints.

Striking Clocks and Silent Clocks. Talking Saints and Silent Saints.

Uncertain Clocks and Certain Clocks. Uncertain Saints and Certain Saints.

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| 1. The Bad Clock. | RUIN. |
| 2. The Repaired Clock. | RESTORATION. |
| 3. The Good Clock. | REGULATION. |
| 4. The Misleading Clock. | REPUTATION. |
| 5. The Handless Clock. | RESPONSIBILITY. |

The Bad Clock is out of order, the mainspring broken, works twisted, and hands bent, the result of a sad fall. A picture of man's condition through sin, soul broken from God, faculties all twisted into confusion, and the life all bent away from God (Isa. liii. 6; Rom. v. 12), the power of fellowship destroyed, and the secret of real life lost (Rom. iii. 23).

The Repaired Clock has been set right by the maker, the mainspring is new, the works are straightened, and the fingers are both new and true. This is how man is restored when converted to God. A new heart, a new spirit, a new tongue, and a new life for God.

2 Cor. v. 17; Gal. vi. 15.

The Good Clock is not only put right, but is kept right. It is wound up, oiled, regulated, and kept going, and every Christian needs this too. To be kept clean by the Word, wound up by Prayer, oiled daily by the Holy Spirit, regulated by the Key of Promise, kept in time by the Sun of Righteousness, and striking loud and clear for God.

John xv. 3; 1 Thess. v. 17; 2 Pet. i. 4; 1 Thess. v. 23.

The Misleading Clock is a great deal of trouble, and not at all to be depended upon. It is sometimes too fast, sometimes too slow, and it has been known to stop altogether. Many Christians are like this: too fast, too slow, and in some cases backslide and stop altogether.

Gal. iv. 15; v. 7; Jude 19.

The Handless Clock has a face and figures, but no hands. It looks like a clock, but it tells no time. Like numbers

who call themselves Christians, and are called Christians by others, but give no testimony for the Lord, no evidence of life, and no fruit for eternity. *Matt. xxv 3-8.*

145. The Gates of Truth and Grace.

THE word Gate in Scripture is used generally to describe the means of entrance into a City, a Temple, a House, a Fold, etc.; if open it is the means of access, if closed is a barrier to entrance. In a spiritual sense a gate means an open or closed way of life. So in the Bible we have the Gates of the Righteous, *Worship* (Ps. ix. 14); the Gates of the Lord, *Praise* (Ps. cxviii. 20); the Gates of Zion, *Fellowship* (Ps. ix. 14); the Gates of the King, *Service* (Prov. viii. 34); and the Gates of the City, *Heaven* (Rev. xxi. 12), for the Lord's people. But the Gates of Truth and Grace are open to all.

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| 1. The Dark Gate of Sin. | RUIN.
<i>Gen. iii. 1-7</i> |
| 2. The Grand Gate of Redemption. | REDEMPTION.
<i>Eph. i. 7.</i> |
| 3. The Narrow Gate of Life. | REGENERATION.
<i>John iii. 3.</i> |
| 4. The Bright Gate of Praise. | REJOICING.
<i>Phil. iv. 4.</i> |
| 5. The Open Gate of Service. | RESPONSE.
<i>Matt. xxi. 28.</i> |
| 6. The Gloomy Gate of Death. | REST.
<i>Rev. xiv. 13.</i> |
| 7. The Golden Gate of Heaven. | REWARD.
<i>Rev. xx. 14.</i> |

Sin is from the Devil; the Devil shook Eve's confidence in God, and this is the essence of all sin. To doubt either

God's word, love, or power: "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not surely die." This is to give God the lie, and bring certain ruin. *Rom. v. 12.*

The work of Redemption by the Blood of Jesus manifests His Love in its different aspects: His Suffering Love (1 Pet. iii. 18), Seeking Love (Luke xv. 4, 5), and Saving Love (Acts xvi. 30, 31).

The Narrow Gate is wide enough to let in the sinner, but not his sins. Therefore we are told to *Strive*, not with God, but with Self, Sin, and Satan. *Enter*, not talk about it merely, nor resolve, nor hope; but act and decide. *Now*, while the gate is open and all are welcome.

Passing through the Gate of Praise is rejoicing in the Lord. Praise is Grace in the Heart, a Garment for the Soul, and Fruit of the lips (Heb. xiii. 15). Praise is Adoration, Thanksgiving, Worship, and the Anticipation of the glory.

The Gate of Service is open for every Christian, and we are Saved, Separated, Sanctified, and sent to Serve.

Matt. xxi. 28.

All who die in the Lord, Sleep in love, Rest in peace, and Wait in hope. *1 Thess. iv. 13, 14; Isa. lvii. 2.*

146. Lamps of Grace.

LAMPS are often mentioned in Scripture, and are used by the Holy Spirit to illustrate many phases of Divine Truth, the Word of God, the Presence of Christ, the Grace of the Holy Spirit, the Salvation of God, and the Ministers of the Gospel.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Spirit Lamp. | CONSCIENCE. | <i>Prov. xx. 27.</i> |
| 2. The Safety Lamp. | BIBLE. | <i>Ps. cxix. 105.</i> |

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|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 3. The Golden Lamp. | CHRIST. | 2 Chron. iv. 20, 21. |
| 4. The Burning Lamp. | SALVATION. | Isa. lxii. 1. |
| 5. The Oil Lamp. | BELIEVERS. | Matt. xxv. 4. |
| 6. The Pitcher Lamp. | SERVICE. | Judg. vii. 16. |
| 7. The Empty Lamp. | PROFESSION. | Matt. xxv. 8. |

The Candle of the Lord is Conscience; but it is not a sure guide unless it is enlightened by the Holy Spirit (Rom. ii. 15). Conscience is a *light* which enables us to judge between right and wrong (Gen. iii. 7-10); a *voice* which always speaks for God (Acts xxiv. 25); and a *power* which overcomes the bravest (Gen. i. 15).

The Bible Lamp has a sevenfold blessing: Light for the mind (Ps. cxix. 130); Treasure for the heart (Ps. cxix. 11); Honey for the mouth (Ps. xix. 10); Lamp for the feet (Ps. cxix. 105); Guide for the life (Ps. lxxiii. 24); Comfort in trouble (Ps. cxix. 50); and Hope for the future (Rom. xv. 4).

The Golden Lamp is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit has given us two keys to unlock the truth taught by this type (Zech. iv. 2, 3; Rev. i. 10-20): "All fulness dwells in Jesus;" "Of His fulness have we received."

The Burning Lamp is a striking simile of God's salvation. It *saves* from danger, *cheers* in the darkness, and *guides* to safety, like the House Lamp, the Street Lamp, and the Railway Lamp.

The Oil Lamp represents the Believer. Lamps are for oil, so is the Believer to be filled with the oil of grace (Exod. xxvii. 20); for *light* (Ps. xviii. 28); for *service* (Exod. xl. 25); and for *constant shining* (Lev. xxiv. 2).

The Pitcher Lamps are peculiar but useful like Christians. There is a Trumpet to sound, *our Voice*; a

Pitcher to break, *Self*; a Lamp to hold, *Bible*; and a Light to shine, *Testimony*.

2 Tim. iv. 2; 2 Cor. v. 20; iv. 7; Phil. ii. 15.

The Empty Lamp means profession, but not possession. Same kind of lamp, but no oil. Profession, but no grace. Same opportunities, but no light. Privileges, but no testimony. Same call, but not ready. Invited and called, but outside. The wise and foolish virgins pictures of this experience. *Matt. xxv. 1-10.*

147. The Life and Death Railway.

THIS Life and Death Railway Bible Reading is always given with a large picture illustrating the Line, Stations, Trains, etc., on the routes to the other world.

1. **Opportunity Path.** Leading to Salvation or Condemnation.

2. **Two Great Influences.** The World or Grace.

3. **Life and Death Station.** Point of decision; Booking for eternity.

4. **The Up and Down Lines.** To Death or to Life.

5. **The Trains.** Life Express, or General Indifference.

6. **The Stations on Up Line.** Safety, Supply, and Service.

7. **The Tunnel of Death, and Terminus.** Home to Glory.

There are three things which meet every man on the path of opportunity: the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the Cross of Christ. These are for Information, Conviction, and Conversion (Matt. xxii. 42; John xvi. 8, 9; Acts xvi. 30, 31; Gal. vi. 14). It is very sad for the sinner to pass these points and be lost.

There are two great Influences at work in the world to

lead men either right or wrong. On the one side Means of Grace: Sunday-School (Prov. viii. 17); Church (Acts iii. 19); Chapel (Isa. lv. 6, 7); and Mission-Hall (John iii. 16). On the other side: Sin and Satan; Spend-all Tavern (Joel i. 5); Delude-all Theatre (1 Tim. v. 6); Please-all Music-hall (1 John ii. 15); Ruin-all Ballroom (Eph. ii. 3); and Lose-all Street (Eccl. xii. 8). Which side is ours?

The Tickets for the Down line are *very expensive*; they cost very often the loss of body and soul too (Rom. vi. 23). The Tickets for the Up line are *all free*: "Whosoever will" (Rom. iii. 24; Rev. xxii. 17).

The different trains are interesting on the up line. There is the Life Express, which takes *first, second, and third* class passengers; then there is the Royal Mail Special Service Train, and the Fast Train to the City, all leading to Glory. On the Down line there are the Drunkard's Express, General Indifference, the Special Excursion, and the Down Grade Special, all hastening on to Death.

The Stations on the up line are helpful to notice. There are Consecration Station, Working Junction, Watching Site, Waiting Mount, and then the Home Terminus.

The Tunnel of Death is a little frightening for a few timid Christians, but there is nothing to fear; there is a Light to scatter the darkness, because the Lord Himself is there. *Ps. xxiii. 4.*

The Home Terminus on the other side is a place of joy.

The Place of Reception. What meetings and greetings there. *1 Thess. iv. 17.*

The Home of Rest. There the rest which remains.

Heb. iv. 9.

The Time of Reward. All loving service will be rewarded. *1 Cor. iii. 14.*

148. Remarkable Characters.

HAPPINESS is not the end of life, but Character is. Everything depends upon Character, both for this life and the life which is to come. The Bible is the best book to read upon Character, and gives the only true light and estimate of life as it really is. There are five special Characters to which the Bible often refers: the *Fool*, the *Atheist*, the *Thief*, the *Drunkard*, and the *Christian*, and it is wise to take God's mind upon these.

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The Fool. | THE MIND DARK. | <i>Prov. xviii. 2.</i> |
| 2. The Atheist. | THE HEART DARK. | <i>Ps. xiv. 1.</i> |
| 3. The Thief. | THE LIFE DARK. | <i>John xii. 6.</i> |
| 4. The Drunkard. | THE FUTURE DARK. | <i>Prov. xxiii. 21.</i> |
| 5. The Christian. | ALL LIGHT AND BRIGHT. | <i>Acts xi. 26.</i> |

There are three kinds of *Fools*: Natural Fool, with intellect weak; Wicked Fool, despising the light and truth, and hating knowledge (Prov. i. 11); the Deluded Fool, who deceives himself and prefers the world to Christ, the body to the soul, earth to heaven (Luke xii. 20).

The heart of the Atheist is wrong, and his creed is *no God*. No God, then no light, no love, no life, and no hope, for God is Light, and Love, and Life, and Hope for poor lost man. The typical Atheist we have in 2 Kings vii. 2. His unbelief cost him his life (*vv. 19, 20*).

The Thief loves the dark places because his deeds are evil. There are different kinds of *thieves*: the Professional Thief (Josh. vii. 21), the Oppressing Thief (Prov. xiv. 31), the Pious Thief (John xii. 6), and the Foolish Thief (Mal. iii. 8; John x. 1; 1 Cor. vi. 19, 20), who rob

God of His dues, Christ of His glory, and the Holy Spirit of His property.

There are four remedies recommended to deal with the Drunkard: the *Legal*, the *Medical*, the *Moral*, and the *Spiritual*. All are needed, but the Spiritual remedy is the most effectual and sure. The poor drunkard's future is Dark and Hopeless, Personally (Gal. vi. 7), Relatively (Prov. xxiii. 21), and Spiritually (1 Cor. vi. 10).

The Christian is the noblest work of God. He is a Son of the living God, a Copy of the Lord Jesus, a Temple of the Holy Ghost, a Witness in the World, and a Citizen of the New Jerusalem. Although a Peculiar person in many respects, he has his *mind light*, his *heart right*, his *soul saved*, his *life true*, and his *future bright*; his Mind is Renewed (Eph. iv. 23); his Heart is Cleansed from all sin (1 John i. 7); his Life in Harmony with God (Luke ix. 23); his Soul is Committed to Christ (2 Tim. i. 12); and his Future is all Insured (Heb. xi. 10-16).

149. The Royal Post.

THE Post Office, in its varied life and activity, is a striking picture of Spiritual things, a *guide* to the messages of grace, and an *illustration* of real active service for the King of kings.

1. **The Post Offices.** Authority and Information.
2. **The Mails.** Speed and Despatch.
3. **The Telegraph and Bank.** Urgency and Security.
4. **The Postmen.** Responsibility and Faithfulness.
5. **The Letters.** Tidings of Joy and Sorrow.
6. **The Stamps.** Paid and Passed on.
7. **The Seals.** Safety and Certainty.

Mails for the Million.

Posts for the People.

Letters for the Lonely.

Wires for Workers.

Packets, Parcels, and Portions for every one.

The Post Office is the centre of *authority, information, and convenience*. So the Church of Christ is the centre of all *spiritual power, light and blessing*. Christ is the Head and great Director of all the service in the Spiritual Post.

Matt. xxviii. 18; Col. i. 15-19; Matt. xviii. 20.

The Mails point to the means of transit for every important message entrusted to the Post Office, and are pictures of the various methods the Lord has of sending His loving word to the sons of men with all haste. "The King's business requireth haste." 1 *Sam. viii. 21;*

Gen. xix. 17; Matt. iii. 7; xxviii. 19; 2 Cor. v. 20.

The Telegraph speaks of *Urgency*. "Behold, I come quickly" (Rev. xxii. 20). "Behold the Lamb of God" (John i. 29). "Son, go work to-day," etc. (Matt. xxi. 28).

The Bank speaks of Wisdom and Safety. "Lay up for yourselves treasure." *Matt. vi. 20.*

The Postmen are types of God's Messengers of mercy. In their *Appointment, Service, and Responsibilities*.

Mark iii. 13-15; Luke xiv. 23; Mark xvi. 15; 2 Cor. v. 10.

The Letters, Cards and Telegrams illustrate the various Messages of Grace sent by the King of Heaven to all the sons of men. To Sinner, Saint and Servant, with Words of Reconciliation (2 Cor. v. 19); Pardon (Acts xiii. 38); Life (1 John v. 11-13); Instruction (Phil. iv. 6); and Hope (Rev. xxii. 12).

The Stamp tells of free Grace, all paid for and sent.

The Seal shows *Certainty, Love, Power, and Security*.

Eph. i. 13, 14; 2 Cor. i. 22; John x. 28; Jude 24.

150. **Science and Sovereign Grace.**

THERE are Seven *wonderful instruments* which play an important part in the scientific and business world of to-day, and which, if examined in the light of the Bible, illustrate many precious spiritual truths.

1. **The Mirror an Image of Bible Truth.**

The Mirror reflects the true character of things. So the Bible is the great reflector of both God and man, sin and holiness, heaven and earth. In that sense it shows us the true character of things. The Bible reflects the true character of man—his *heart* (Jer. xvii. 9; Matt. xv. 19); his *life* (Eph. ii. 2, 3); and his *hope* (Eph. ii. 12).

It reflects the great love of God—His general love (John iii. 16); His special love (Eph. v. 25); His personal love (Gal. ii. 20). These are the three circles of God's love reflected by this Divine mirror. It also reflects the *grace* and *glory* of Christ—His *spotless character*, His *perfect work*, His *personal glory*, and His *saving power*.

2. **The Telescope an Illustration of Saving Faith.**

By the aid of the telescope we are enabled to bring distant things near, and a look through this glass illustrates the look of faith through the Word of God. *Heb. ix. 26.*

We can *look back* to the Cross, and see what Christ has done for us. *John i. 29.*

We can *look up* to the Throne, and see what Christ is doing for us. *Heb. ix. 24.*

We can *look on* to the glory, and see what Christ is going to do with us (Titus ii. 13); with the full assurance of faith, of understanding, and of hope.

3. **The Microscope a Picture of the Spirit's Light.**

This is an instrument which magnifies small things,

and enables us to see them in detail. This is what the Holy Spirit does in a spiritual sense. He reveals to us the lights and shades of truth. He explains to us all the secrets and interests in the many books of information which lie open before us.

The Book of Pictures, *Creation*; the Book of Mercies, *Providence*; the Book of Stories, the *Bible*; the Book of Accounts, *Judgment*; and the *Book of Life*—the Lamb's Book. It requires special light to see the great facts of revealed truth. *1 Cor. ii. 13, 14; 1 John ii. 20.*

He will show us the *secrets of life*, the *state of the world*, the *mysteries of the Church*, and the *wonders of the future*.

4. **The Kaleidoscope a Display of Salvation Wonders.**

By this instrument we are enabled to see the same objects in many different combinations of form and colour. So there is a multiplied light of the Word which shows to us our salvation in its many different features.

Salvation from the *curse* of sin by the atonement of Christ. *Gal. iii. 13.*

Salvation from the *power* of sin by His Spirit and grace. *Phil. ii. 12.*

Salvation from the *presence* of sin in the Glory. *Ps. xvii. 15; Col. iii. 4.*

We are *saved*, we are *being saved*, and we are *waiting for salvation*.

5. **The Thermometer an Indicator of Christian Experience.**

The thermometer gives us the rise and fall of the atmosphere. So there are certain things that act as tests and gauges of our spiritual atmosphere. Cold and heat—earnestness or apathy.

The Thermometers in the Church are the Prayer-meeting, the Pulpit, and the Collection.

The Thermometer for Life and Service is Love—all depends upon this. 2 Cor. v. 14.

The Thermometer for the Home is Patience.

Gal. vi. 2; Rom. xv. 5.

These are the great Regulators of the Christian life.

6. The Telephone a Type of Soul Communion.

This instrument is the means of *communication* both by near and distant friends. So are the Bible and prayer in a spiritual sense. The Bible is God's telephone wire to us (Heb. i. 2; 2 Pet. i. 12; Heb. xii. 25). Prayer is our telephone wire to God (Neh. ii. 4; Phil. iv. 6).

7. The Phonograph an Emblem of Life's Recorder.

The phonograph is a *receiver*, a *retainer*, and a *repeater*, and in a real sense our words and actions and lives are being phonographed every day. Everything is being written and recorded; nothing is missed (Mal. iii. 16). Everything is retained in God's book of remembrance (Rev. xx. 12). Everything will be brought to the light and repeated soon (Eccl. xii. 14). All will witness for us or against us in the great reckoning day.

CHAPTER VII

NUMBERED NAILS FOR WILLING WORKERS

151. Spiritual Arithmetic.

THE science of Arithmetic is required for every position in life. The statesman, the merchant, the soldier, the sailor, the artisan, and the labourer, all require more or less a knowledge of figures in order to secure success in life. The science of Arithmetic is also used very largely in spiritual things; and it is only to read the Bible to see the importance of numbers and figures in our Christian experience. They have a decided place in the school of grace.

Scripture Numbers.

- | | | | |
|--------|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| ONE. | Unity Number— | “One Lord, one faith, one baptism.” | <i>Eph. iv. 4, 5, 6.</i> |
| TWO. | Testimony Number— | “Testimony of two men is true.” | <i>John viii. 17; Mark vi. 7.</i> |
| THREE. | Trinity Number— | “Three that bear record in heaven.” | <i>1 John v. 7; 1 Cor. xiii. 13.</i> |
| FOUR. | Worldly Number— | “Four corners of the earth.” | <i>Rev. vii. 1; Acts x. 11.</i> |
| FIVE. | Responsibility Number— | “Five of them were wise.” | <i>Matt. xxv. 2.</i> |
| SIX. | Limiting Number— | “Six days the Lord made heaven and earth.” | <i>Exod. xx. 11.</i> |
| SEVEN. | Perfect Number— | “Seven dispensations. Seven churches.” | <i>Rev. i. 20.</i> |

- EIGHT.** Resurrection Number—"Eight souls saved in the ark." 1 *Pet.* iii. 20.
- NINE.** Failing Number—"Where are the nine?" *Luke* xvii. 17.
- TEN.** Testing Number—"Ten commandments. Ten talents." *Ex.* xx. 1, 17; *Ma.* xxv. 20.
- ELEVEN.** Incomplete Number—"He appeared unto the eleven." *Mark* xvi. 14.
- TWELVE.** Complete Number—"Twelve tribes of Israel. Twelve apostles." *Rev.* xxi.
- FORTY.** Probation Number—"Forty years. Forty days." *Heb.* iii. 17; *Jonah* iii. 4.
- SEVENTY.** Fulness Number—"Seventy weeks of Daniel." *Dan.* ix. 24.
- "An innumerable company of angels." *Heb.* xii. 22.
- "A great multitude, which no man could number." *Rev.* vii. 9.

152. Scripture Counting.

COUNTING is much used in the Bible to convey definite ideas of God's gracious dealings with man, and the blessed life, testimony, and service of the saints.

What God Counts.

- The Lord counts the Stars,** Calls them, and Controls them. *Ps.* cxlvii. 4; *Isa.* xl. 26; *Ps.* viii. 3, 4.
- The Lord counts His people.** As His People they are Recognised. 1 *Pet.* ii. 10.
As His Children they are Registered. *Ps.* lxxxvii. 6.
As His Servants they are Recorded. *Phil.* iv. 3.
As His Treasure they are Reckoned. *Mal.* iii. 16.
As His Friends they are Remembered. 2 *Tim.* ii. 19.

3. The Lord counts important things about His people. Their steps. The hairs of their heads.

Job xiv. 16.

Their wanderings, and services.

Matt. x. 30; *Ps.* lvi. 8; *Mark* xii. 42.

What Man should Count.

4. Man should count

His Sins. *Job* xiii. 23; *Ps.* xl. 12; *Jer.* ii. 22.

His Mercies. *Ps.* ciii. 2.

His Talents. *Matt.* xxv. 14, 30.

His Days. *Ps.* xc. 12; xxxix. 4.

153. Scripture Addition.

THERE is Natural, Divine, and Christian ADDITION. It is first Possession, then Progress.

1. Natural Addition.

Isa. xxx. 1; *Job* xxxiv. 37; *Rom.* ii. 5; *Isa.* v. 18.

Adding sin to sin, iniquity to iniquity, and rebellion to sin.

Sins increase in number, guilt, and power.

2. Divine Addition. "The Lord added to the Church daily." *Acts* ii. 47.

Supply added to Salvation. *Luke* xii. 31.

Souls added to the Church. *Acts* ii. 41.

3. Christian Addition. "Add to your faith virtue," etc. 2 *Pet.* i. 5.

From faith to faith. *Rom.* i. 17.

From grace to grace. *John* i. 16.

From strength to strength. *Ps.* lxxxiv. 7.

From glory to glory. 2 *Cor.* iii. 18.

Faithful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. *Col.* i. 10

154. **Scripture Subtraction.**

SUBTRACTION, as applied to spiritual things, is vastly important. It means the taking away of Sin from the Soul, Hardness from the Heart, Dross from the Life, Evil from the Service, and Talents from the Lazy.

1. **Subtraction of Sin from the Soul.** 1 *John* iii. 5.
As a Separating power. 1 *Cor.* v. 21.
As a Condemning power. *Rom.* viii. 1.
As a Controlling power. *Rom.* vi. 14.

By Grace sin is removed from the soul. This leaves a guiltless soul, a pardoned sinner, and a perfected saint.

2. **Subtraction of Hardness from the Heart.**

Ezek. xi. 9.

God takes away the heart of stone, the heart of unbelief and death, and gives the new heart of faith and feeling, love and life, holiness and happiness.

3. **Subtraction of Dross from the Life.**

Prov. xxv. 4.

The Dross of sin, self, and worldliness, taken from the life, leaves it bright, clear, and useful.

4. **Subtraction of Evil from the Service.**

Isa. lii. 11.

The House cleansed for Worship. SANCTIFICATION.

2 *Chron.* xxix. 5.

The Vessel dusted before Service. SEPARATION.

Isa. lii. 11.

The Shaft polished for Service. SHARPNESS.

Isa. xlix. 2.

The Tree purged for Fruit-bearing. SEVERANCE.

John xv. 2.

The Camp purified for Victory. SUFFERING.

Josh. vii. 13.

The Service tested for Acceptance. SHINING.
Mal. iii. 2, 3.

The Graces tried for Purification. SINCERITY.
1 *Pet.* i. 7.

5. **Subtraction of Talents from the Lazy.**

Matt. xxv. 28.

Talents used are multiplied. Talents hidden are taken away, then Opportunities gone, and Reward gone, and Well-done gone.

155. **Scripture Multiplication.**

MULTIPLICATION of God's mercy is from the unit of grace to the abundance of blessing. There is no limit to God's supply for the saints.

1. **The Law of Multiplication in Nature.** "Be fruitful and multiply."
Gen. i. 28.

It is first the seed, then the tree, growth, and fruit, and abundance of fruit. *Mark* iv. 28; *Matt.* xiii. 23.

2. **The Fact of Multiplication of Sin.** *Isa.* lix. 12.
Sin multiplies in its power, influence, and fruit.

Rom. v. 12.

3. **The Blessing of Multiplication in Grace.**

Rom. v. 20.

THE LORD MULTIPLIES,—	}	GRACE. "More grace," "all grace." <i>James</i> iv. 8; <i>Rom.</i> v. 9; 2 <i>Cor.</i> ix. 8.
		LOVE. 1 <i>John</i> iv. 19; <i>Rom.</i> v. 5; <i>Eph.</i> iii. 18, 19; <i>Jude</i> 2.
		PEACE. <i>Col.</i> i. 20; <i>Phil.</i> iv. 7; <i>Col.</i> iii. 15; <i>Rom.</i> xv. 13.
		PARDON. <i>Isa.</i> lv. 7; <i>Matt.</i> xviii. 21, 22.

4. **The Rule of Multiplication in Service.**

Gen. xxvi. 12.

All grace, ministry, and service are multiplied.

Acts ii. 20, 22.

156. **Scripture Division.**

Division or Separation has an important place both in spiritual teaching and spiritual life, and the line of separation drawn by the Lord is fixed, and eternal.

1. **Dividing Providence.**

Gen. i. 4, 7; x. 25; Dan. v. 28.

God divided light from the darkness. The people on the earth. The kingdom to the Gentiles.

2. **Dividing Grace.**

Ex. viii. 23; Isa. liii. 12.

By the Line of Redemption. *Ex. xi. 7; xii. 13.*

By the Line of Life. *Gal. ii. 20; vi. 14.*

By the Line of Power. *Ex. xiv. 21; 2 Cor. vi. 16, 18.*

By the Line of Truth. *2 Tim. ii. 15; Heb. iv. 12.*

3. **Dividing Love.**

Eph. iv. 11, 12, 13.

The Distribution of grace, gifts, and service.

The Principle. *Josh. ii. 23.*

The Picture. *1 Chron. xxvii. 1-34.*

The Particulars *1 Cor. xii. 8, 13.*

The Fruit. *1 Cor. xii. 11; Rom. xii. 13.*

4. **Dividing Judgment.**

Matt. xxv. 31.

THE LORD
DIVIDES,—

The good Seed from the bad.

Matt. xiii. 24, 30.

The good Characters from the bad.

Matt. xiii. 47, 50.

The good Life from the bad.

Matt. xxv. 31, 46.

This division will be final. *Matt. xxv. 46.*

157. **Scripture Reduction.**

THE Lord makes use of this process in several ways in His work of saving and blessing men. He, by His grace, brings down the Self-righteous sinner to submission to the Saviour. He reduces the Selfish saint to surrender to

His word, and He subdues the self-sufficient *Servant* to subjection to Himself.

1. **God reduces the Self-righteous Sinner** to submission to the Saviour.

Self-righteousness is a very subtle sin; only the power of God can remove it.

The Principle of Deliverance. Letting go all for Christ.

Gen. xii. 1; Isa. li. 2.

The Picture of Deliverance. Giving up all for Christ.

Phil. iii. 1-10; Luke xviii. 9, 14.

The Power of Deliverance. Saving mercy, regenerating grace, and renewing power. *Titus iii. 5.*

2. **God reduces the Selfish Saint** to surrender to His Word.

The Lord by His Word of light and power extracts the poison of self.

By Living touch with Christ. "He must increase, I must decrease." *John iii. 30.*

By the Light of His Word. "Not I, but Christ."

Gal. ii. 20; 1 Cor. xv. 10.

By painful Discipline. "As he wrestled with him."

Gen. xxxii. 24, 26.

3. **God reduces the Self-sufficient Servant** to subjection to Himself.

God does not require our self-sufficiency for His service, but our subjection to His Will. The men, who are fit for service, are *emptied* of self, *cleansed* by the Word, *filled* by His love, *guided* by His Spirit, and *willing* to obey.

John xxi. 15, 17.

158. **Scripture Proportion.**

PROPORTION is the great balancing power in Creation, the great compensating law in Providence, and the great

principle of God's dealings in grace; but the special line of blessing is,—

1. The Balance of Truth in the Bible.

Rom. v. 12, 19, 21.

"As" and "So" are the two regulating keys in the Bible.

Rom. v. 12; Col. ii. 6.

2. The Proportion of Faith for Blessing.

Matt. ix. 29.

According to your faith"—little faith, little blessing; great faith, great blessing.

The Gift of faith (1 Cor. xii. 9). The Measure of faith (Rom. xii. 3). The Proportion of faith (Rom. xii. 6).

3. The Measure of Grace for the Needy.

John xv. 9.

"As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you," etc.

John xv. 9.

"As the sufferings of Christ abound in us," etc.

2 Cor. i. 5.

"As thy days, so shall thy strength be."

Deut. xxxiii. 25.

4. The Principle of Reward for the Faithful.

Rev. xxii. 12.

Sow sparingly, reap sparingly; sow bountifully, reap bountifully.

2 Cor. ix. 6.

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Gal. vi. 7.

The end of sowing will be reaping.

Gal. vi. 9; Ps. cxxvi. 6.

159. Investment and Interest.

INVESTMENT and INTEREST is a subject in which all are interested more or less. We are all investors in some way or other, and every day receiving interest. The farmer invests his capital in land, the merchant his money

in goods, the builder his money in houses, the scholar his education in teaching, and the labourer his strength and skill in labour, and receives his interest or wages. But we are all investors in a spiritual sense, and for this we have capital to invest, and we shall receive the interest in due time.

1. The Capital.

Our souls and their powers, our bodies and their members, our time and its opportunities, our money and its interests.

Rom. xii. 1; Matt. vi. 19, 21; Rom. ii. 1-11; Eph. v. 16.

2. The Investment.

All these gifts, graces, and powers are given to us to trade with for eternity. We are all naturally concerned in a bad business. The old firm is bankrupt.

There are two great interests now to invest in.

Grace and Glory.

Sin and Satan.

This is on the principle of Righteousness.

This is on the system of Deception.

On the lines of Truth.

On the lines of Delusion.

In the spirit of Love.

With the certainty of

With the certainty of Blessing.

Destruction.

The Security is good.

The Security is bad.

The Interest liberal.

Life uncertain, pleasures disappointing.

Believe on Jesus.

The Interest dreadful.

Beware of the Devil.

3. The Interest.

Present blessing and future reward. There is both real and compound interest.

The Interest of trading with sin is death.

Gal. vi. 7, 8.

The Interest of trading with grace is life and glory.

Rom. ii. 10.

160. **Taking Stock.**

TAKING stock is one of the great safeguards of our business life, and it is just as wise in spiritual matters.

1. **Taking stock of our Lives.**

James iv. 14; *Prov.* iii. 16; *Ps.* xxxi. 15; *Matt.* xvi. 25.

Its Brevity, Change, Wisdom, and Blessing.

Gen. xlvii. 4; *Ps.* xc. 12; *Eccles.* ix. 10.

2. **Taking stock of our Graces.**

The Measure of light (*John* viii. 32); the Power of faith (*Rom.* iv. 20); the Degree of life (*John* x. 10); the Depth of love (*Rom.* v. 5); the Cup of joy (*1 Pet.* i. 8); and Blessing of hope (*Titus* ii. 13).

3. **Taking stock of our Gifts.**

Gifts are God's *delegated powers* to His people. Gifts are the *fruit* of Christ's ascension (*Eph.* iv. 8); are *divided* to us by the Holy Spirit (*1 Cor.* xii. 7); are *given* for *profit*, not for *pride*, and are *nothing* without love (*1 Cor.* xiii. 1-3); and all gifts must be *accounted* for. Be diligent (*2 Pet.* iii. 14).

4. **Taking stock of our Service.**

The Call to service (*Matt.* xxi. 28); the Motive-power for service (*2 Cor.* v. 14); the Rule for service (*Rom.* xii. 2); the Pattern for service (*John* ix. 4); the Power for service (*Acts* i. 8); the Cheer in service (*1 Thess.* ii. 19); the Aim in service (*1 Cor.* x. 31).

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